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SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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RSS strongman Radhakrishnan is VP

Cross-voting in poll stings Oppn's Sudershan

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan was elected the 15th Vice President of India on Tuesday, marking a significant milestone as the first OBC leader from South India to assume the post. A veteran of the BJP and rooted in the RSS, the 68-year-old brings decades of political and administrative experience to his new role as ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Radhakrishnan secured 451 first preference votes, comfortably defeating Opposition candidate and retired Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy, who polled 300.

The voting figures also made it clear that there has been considerable cross-voting - presumably from Opposition MPs. At least 19 MPs voted for the NDA candidate. Described as a soft-spoken and non-confrontational leader, Radhakrishnan succeeds Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned unexpectedly in July. He is the third Tamil Nadu leader to hold the vice-presidency and was serving as Maharashtra's governor before his nomination.

He is A two-time MP from Coimbatore during the Vajpayee era. An RSS swayamsevak since the age of 16, he rose through the BJP ranks, serving as Tamil Nadu BJP president from 2004–07.

A member of the Kongu Vellalar Gounder community, he led a 19,000-km 'Rath Yatra' during his presidency to promote river-linking, fight terrorism, support a uniform civil code, and eradicate untouchability and drugs. —*PTI*

PM Narendra Modi felicitates CP Radhakrishnan after his win in the Vice Presidential polls. ***PHOTO: PTI***

THE VOTING MATH	Strength of electoral college: 781	Majority mark: 391	Total votes cast: 754	Invalid votes: 15	Votes for Reddy: 300	Votes for Radhakrishnan: 451

EX-PM'S WIFE KILLED

GenZ's anger forces Nepal PM to quit

KATHMANDU, 9 SEPT

Nepal plunged into a major political crisis on Tuesday as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned following nationwide student-led protests that turned violent, leaving 19 people dead in police action.

Earlier reports suggested that President Ram Chandra Paudel had also resigned, but this was not confirmed by official government sources.

What began as demonstrations against a controversial social media ban quickly escalated into a widespread anti-government uprising, driven by public anger over corruption and lack of accountability. Defying curfews and a heavy security presence, protesters stormed political offices, set the Parliament on fire, and torched private homes of top leaders.

Oli's private residence in Balkot was set on fire, while properties linked to President Paudel, ex-PMs Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Sher Bahadur Deuba, and several ministers were attacked. The residence of ex-PM Jhalanath Khanal was also targeted, where his wife, Rajyalaxmi Chitrakar, died after being trapped in the blaze.

In a letter to President Paudel, 73-year-old Oli cited "extraordinary circumstances" as the reason for his resignation, aimed at paving the way for a constitutional resolution. His resignation was quickly accepted.

Despite the government revoking the social media ban late Monday, protesters, led largely by Gen Z activists, continued their demonstrations, demanding justice for the deceased and action against corrupt leaders. Slogans such as "KP Chor, Desh Chhod" echoed across Kathmandu.

Flight services at Tribhuvan International Airport were partially suspended due to the unrest.

China, seen as a close ally of Oli, has yet to respond to the unfolding crisis.

Oli, who took office in July 2024 with Congress Party support, was scheduled to visit India later this month.

Over 773 inmates escaped from jails in two of Nepal's western districts as Gen Z protesters broke into the premises. —*PTI*

Smoke rises as protesters set fire to the Parliament in Nepal ***PHOTO: PTI***

39
Kannadigas stranded at Kathmandu airport to be brought back safely

India says avoid travel to Nepal

Indians are advised to defer travel until the situation stabilises, said Minister of External Affairs. Those already in Nepal should remain indoors, avoid public gatherings, and follow local advisories. For assistance, contact the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu at

+977-9808602881 or +977-9810326134 (WhatsApp calls also available)

Lights going off during Maddur riot suspicious: Cops

MANDYA, 9 SEPT

The lights going off during the stone pelting at the Ganesha idol immersion procession in Maddur on 7 September raises doubts about whether the incident was pre-planned and an investigation is on in this regard, IGP (Southern Range) MB Boralingaiah said on Tuesday. He said the situation in Maddur is currently peaceful, despite the BJP calling for a bandh. —*PTI*

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PM announces flood relief for Punjab, Himachal

CHANDIGARH/SHIMLA, 9 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a financial assistance of Rs 1,600 crore for flood-hit Punjab and an immediate relief of Rs 1,500 crore for rain-affected Himachal Pradesh. He took stock of the situation in both the states in the wake of floods and landslides and also conducted aerial surveys of the affected areas. Modi first went to Himachal and after an aerial survey, held a meeting in Kangra to review the rehabilitation measures undertaken. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Starmer to visit India in October

LONDON, 9 SEPT

Keir Starmer's first visit to India as British Prime Minister is expected in early October and will have a sharp focus on the India-UK tech partnership when he is scheduled to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 in Mumbai, officials indicated on Tuesday. GFF 2025 is billed as the world's largest fintech conference to be held at the Jio World Centre between7 and 9 October .—*PTI*

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Israel kills Hamas' Gaza Chief in Doha airstrike

JERUSALEM, 9 SEPT

Black smoke rose over the skyline of the Qatari capital, Doha, as Israel launched a strike targeting Hamas' leadership on Tuesday, officials said. As per Israeli media, Hamas' Gaza Chief, Khalil Al-Hayya was killed in the attack.

This comes as negotiations over ending the war in the Gaza Strip appear stalemated before a new military offensive there.

It wasn't immediately clear if anyone was hurt in the attack, marking the second time the energy-rich nation has been directly attacked in the nearly two years of war that have gripped the wider Middle East since Hamas' attack on southern Israel on 7 October, 2023.

Smoke rises after strikes on Hamas' Doha camp ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

It wasn't clear how the attack was carried out, though an Israeli military spokesman hinted at Israel's air force. Qatar Airways continued landing in Doha amid the strike.

Qatar condemned what it referred to as a "cowardly Israeli attack" on Hamas' political headquarters in Doha. Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari called it a "flagrant violation of all international laws and norms."

Qatar's vast Al-Udeid Air Base, home to the US military's forward headquarters for its Middle East-based Central Command, came under Iranian attack during the 12-day Iran-Israel war that saw American bombers attack Iranian nuclear sites. —*PTI*

DRONE HITS GRETA'S GAZA FLOTILLA IN TUNISIA

TUNIS, 9 SEPT

The Gaza-bound Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) has claimed that one of its main vessels, the Family Boat, was struck by a drone while docked at the Tunisian port of Sidi Bou Said on Monday night, sparking a fire. All crew and passengers, including Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, were reported safe.

A GSF spokesperson accused Israel of the attack. However, Tunisia's National Guard dismissed the claims as "completely unfounded", suggesting instead that a cigarette or lighter likely ignited a life jacket, causing the fire.

The GSF released videos on social media, including footage allegedly showing a drone hovering before dropping an incendiary device, followed by a flash and explosion. Miguel Duarte, aboard the boat at the time, told Middle East Eye he witnessed a drone just before the blast. The flotilla, with over 50 boats and nearly 1,000 participants including former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau and actor Liam Cunningham, aims to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and break the Israeli blockade. —*PTI*

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CITY'S DEATH TRAP

A crater-like pothole near Shantinagar BMTC bus stand endangers riders daily, making a smooth ride in City wishful thinking. Despite repeated govt promises, these death traps remain unfixed. As monsoon rains lash the City, potholes have returned with a vengeance ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

SC: Guv must act on bills within reasonable time

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said governors were expected to act within a "reasonable time" even if the term "as soon as possible" was not there in Article 200 that governs powers to assent to bills passed by the state legislature.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai was hearing arguments on the eighth day of the presidential reference on whether the court could impose timelines for governors and the President to deal with bills passed by assemblies.

Article 200 allows them to either assent to the bill, withhold assent, return the bill for reconsideration or reserve the bill for the President's consideration.

Article 200 says a Governor may, as soon as possible, return the bill, if it is not a money bill, to the house for reconsideration and shall not withhold consent after the assembly reconsiders and sends it back to him.

The bench also comprised Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar.

Senior advocate KK Venugopal of Kerala said former state Governor Arif Mohammad Khan kept sending bills to the ministries for briefing him. The bench said it would not examine individual cases.

The hearing may conclude on 10 September. The court is examining 14 questions referred by President Droupadi Murmu, including whether constitutional authorities can indefinitely withhold assent to bills and whether courts can impose time frames. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

'INDIAN INFLUX IN AUS'

Aus PM asks senator to apologise for anti-India barb

SYDNEY, 9 SEPT

- Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price claimed that large numbers of Indians had been allowed into Australia to vote for Albanese's Centre-left Labor Party.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has called on opposition senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price to apologise for her controversial remarks suggesting an unsustainable influx of Indian migrants and linking them to political motives.

Price, a senator from the Centre-Right Liberal Party, claimed in a radio interview that large numbers of Indians had been allowed into Australia to vote for Albanese's Centre-Left Labor Party. "There is a concern with the Indian community — and only because there's been large numbers. And we can see that reflected in the way the community votes for Labor," she said.

Her comments have sparked outrage across Australia, especially within the Australian-Indian community. Albanese, speaking to ABC, said: "People in the Indian community are hurting. The comments are not true, and she should apologise for the hurt caused — her own colleagues are saying that."

Government data shows the Indian-born population in Australia reached 845,800 in 2023, more than double from a decade earlier, making them one of the largest minority communities.

The New South Wales government held a community meeting on Tuesday to address rising anti-Indian sentiment. —*Agencies*

Man calls Guv posing as Union Minister for favours

BENGALURU, 9 SEPT

An impersonator posing as Union Minister for Education **Dharmendra Pradhan** allegedly tried to deceive State Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot over the phone three days ago. Officials from Raj Bhavan reported that the call was received on Saturday afternoon, during which the impersonator sought a favour regarding certain work. "Sensing something amiss, the Governor chose to wait, expecting a follow-up call. When no further communication came, Gehlot contacted the Union Minister's office to verify. Pradhan categorically denied making any such call," an officer disclosed. Following this, the Governor informed the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner of Police. Preliminary inquiries suggest the call originated from Kolkata. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SALAR

Thinkers' Forum head gives 510 laptops to students

BENGALURU, 9 SEPT

BS Shivanna, chairman of the Lohia Thinkers Forum, who earlier proposed featuring BR Ambedkar's portrait on currency notes to fight untouchability, has completed another mission. Since 2019, his initiative to provide free laptops to underprivileged students pursuing professional courses has reached 510 beneficiaries. Shivanna told Salar News that he continues to campaign for Ambedkar's portrait to be displayed alongside Mahatma Gandhi's on currency, saying it would symbolically take Ambedkar into temples and homes that exclude Dalits.

He added that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has assured him of support after the Bihar Assembly elections.. *—SALAR NEWS*

Cong MLA bought tickets with betting funds: ED

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Arrested State Congress MLA KC Veerendra, his family members and associates booked international travel tickets worth crores of rupees and these were financed through a network of "mule" accounts linked to proceeds from online betting websites, the ED alleged on Tuesday. "The evidence suggests that the funds used for these high-value transactions were diverted from illicit online activities and funnelled through multiple intermediary accounts to obscure their origin," the ED said. Veerendra is being investigated as the "prime accused" in a money laundering case. The ED has accused the MLA of "running" several online betting sites in the name of King567, Raja567, Lion567, Play567, Playwin567, etc. *—PTI*

Woman run over by lorry due to pothole in M'luru

MANGALURU, 9 SEPT

A 40-year-old woman named Lalitha tragically lost her life after the two-wheeler she was riding allegedly toppled over a pothole, causing her to fall beneath the wheels of a moving lorry on the national highway near Kuluru of the State on Tuesday. According to police reports, the incident occurred on a stretch of highway frequently criticised by motorists for its poor maintenance. Local residents voiced their frustration, attributing the accident to the road's condition. Traffic police have registered a case, moved the body for a post-mortem, seized the lorry, and detained the driver for questioning. Authorities indicated that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will be notified for prompt road repairs. *—PTI*

Cops: Lights going off during Maddur riots suspicious

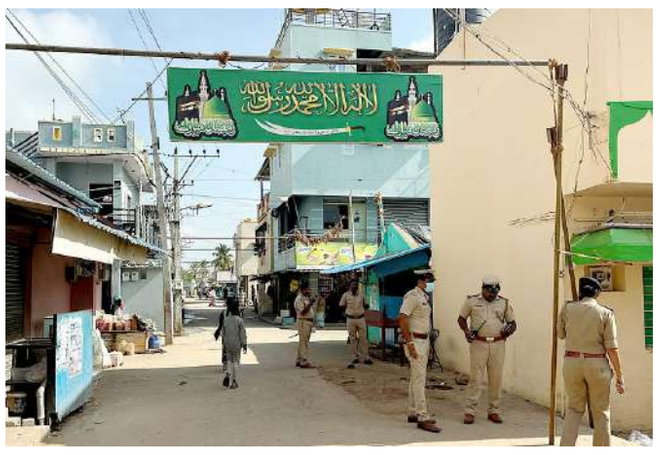
Cops probe if riots were pre-planned; blame game continues

MANDYA, 9 SEPT

The lights going off during the stone pelting at the Ganesha idol immersion procession in Maddur on 7 September raises doubts about whether the incident was pre-planned, IGP (Southern Range) MB Boralingaiah said on Tuesday.

He said the situation in Maddur is currently peaceful, despite the BJP calling for a bandh. Around 800 personnel have been deployed as markets remained shut. So far, 22 people have been arrested and sent to judicial custody.

"We have verified CCTV. The preliminary information available is that the lights were turned off when the incident happened. A stone was thrown, it is seen in the CCTV images. But was there a conspiracy, how it happened, and what is the root cause? These are being investigated," Boralingaiah said.



Police personnel patrol an area as security was increased in Maddur, following clashes during the immersion of Ganesha idols **PHOTO: PTI**

Meanwhile, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Deputy DK Shivakumar, accusing the Congress government of insulting Hindus and indulging in appeasement politics. "What were the police doing?" she added.

However, Home Minister G Parameshwara denied the charges, asking if the police were involved in the stone pelting. He said that the guilty will not be spared and appealed to all communities to maintain peace.

State BJP President BY Vijayendra said, "Due to CM Siddaramaiah's anti-Hindu policy, atrocities are being committed against the majority in the State. If this continues, it will be difficult to even walk on the streets."

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah said, "It has come to our notice that BJP members have lodged a complaint with the Union Home Minister regarding the law and order situation in the State. Where were the BJP members when many farmers lost their lives during the farmers' agitation against the Centre? Why did BJP leaders not raise their voice on Manipur?" *—Agencies*

DASARA ROW

Right-wingers detained before Chamundi rally

MYSURU, 9 SEPT

BJP leaders, Hindu Jagarana Vedike members and others were taken into preventive custody when they attempted to begin a 'Chamundi Hill Chalo' march on Tuesday, police said. MLA TS Srivathsa and former Mysuru MP Pratap Simha were among those detained, police said.

The protesters, who gathered in large numbers at Kurubarahalli Circle on Chamundi Hill road, were stopped before they began their march to the Chamundeshwari Temple atop the hill. Police had not given them permission to hold the rally.

Police cited the sensitivity of the situation and law and order issues, when taking them into preventive custody.

The Hindu Jagarana Vedike had called for 'Chamundi Hill Chalo' to protest Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's statement that the Chamundi Hill was not the property of Hindus alone.

TS Srivathsa **PHOTO: FB**

Similarly, members of the Dalit Mahasabha who also wanted to take a counter protest, were also stopped and taken into preventive custody.

The BJP and several Hindu organisations have objected to the State government's decision to invite International Booker Prize winning author Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate this year's Dasara. *—PTI*

GOLDEN HOURS

Amid all the chaos in the world, the City's skyline, as seen from Shivajinagar on Tuesday, provides people with a serene moment of peace **PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD**

No life without hope: DKS on CM dream

BENGALURU/ COIMBATORE, 9 SEPT

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar avoided directly responding to a question on whether he would take over as Chief Minister in the State, and instead said, "Time will answer. I will not answer. Only time has to answer. Anyone in this world has to live on hope. Without hope there is no life."

Speaking at the India Today Conclave South 2025 in Coimbatore on Tuesday, he said the decision lay with the Congress' High Command.

"It is me, my leadership. Me and my party. Me and (Chief Minister) Siddaramaiah. So, my party high command is whole and soul for us, we go by their directions. Whatever they decide, we accept," he said. He added that he believed that the Congress would return to power in the State in 2028.

"The way we are working, we have gained the trust of people across our State. We have that confidence," he said.

Explaining why he had sung

the RSS anthem, Shivakumar said a politician must study his opponents. "To enter politics, first you should know yourself, your surroundings and your enemies."

He added that he apologised because his ego was not important.

RAHUL TO BE NEXT PM

Shivakumar was confident that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would become the nation's next Prime Minister in 2029, saying that "country needs a change".

"I am very confident that Gandhi will be the next Prime Minister," he said. Notably, the INDIA bloc had contested the Lok Sabha polls without announcing its candidate for Prime Minister. *—Salar News with agencies*

Six people appear before Dharmasthala SIT

MANGALURU, 9 SEPT

Six persons, including three YouTubers from Kerala, appeared on Tuesday for questioning before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged case of multiple rapes, murders and burials in Dharmasthala.

Those summoned were identified as Manaf, Abhishek, and Jayanth T, who run YouTube channels in Kerala, along with activist Girish Mattannavar, Vithal Gowda, and Pradeep, the SIT said.

The SIT is probing the recovery of human skulls and bones in Dharmasthala, a case that has triggered widespread speculation, much of it amplified on digital platforms.

The officials said the YouTubers were questioned to verify the content they produced and the sources of their claims.

Investigators have so far refrained from disclosing details of the inquiry, noting only that questioning remains at a preliminary stage. More individuals may be called as the probe progresses. *—PTI*

Shivamogga: Pak chants allegedly raised during Eid

SHIVAMOGGA, 9 SEPT

Pro-Pakistan slogans were allegedly raised during the Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi celebrations in the communally sensitive Bhadravati town of Shivamogga district, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, a Muslim outfit had organised the celebration on Monday night in Bhadravati Old Town. A video that has gone viral purportedly shows a group of youths shouting "Pakistan Zindabad."

The incident has triggered concern in the district, which has witnessed communal flare-ups in the past.

"The incident happened on Monday. We are registering an FIR in Bhadravati now and identifying the persons in it," Shivamogga Superintendent of Police Mithun Kumar said. "We are verifying where it was shot, when it was shot, who all have shouted, and the genuineness of the video, and then we will be proceeding with investigation."

The SP added that three police teams led by three inspectors have been formed to identify those involved. "We have footages shot from drones, CCTV and videos taken by our video team," he told reporters. The BJP said that law and order collapsed the State. *—PTI*

Shivamogga has seen several communal clashes in the recently **PHOTO: PTI**

Court denies Darshan's jail transfer plea

BENGALURU, 9 SEPT

A Bengaluru court rejected actor Darshan's request to be transferred from Parappana Agrahara Central Prison to Ballari jail in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case.

The court said there were no valid grounds for the transfer but allowed certain concessions within the prison. Darshan, accused number two in the case, will now be permitted to walk within the prison premises.

The court also approved his plea for basic facilities, including an extra bed, pillow, and bedsheet, while stressing that all provisions must comply with the prison manual.

During the hearing, Darshan made an emotional appeal, saying he had not seen the sun for 30 days and that his hands were affected by a fungal infection.

He reportedly told the judge, "Just poison me, please pass this order." *—PTI*

Chamarajnagar villagers hold forest staffers in tiger cage

CHAMARAJANAGAR, 9 SEPT

At least seven forest staff were allegedly held captive by villagers in a cage kept for a tiger after they failed to catch the animal, in Chamarajanagar district, sources said on Tuesday.

According to forest department sources, the big cat strayed from the forest to Bommalapur in Gundlupet Taluk about a month ago and has been roaming around the village.

The repeated sightings of the tiger had scared the villagers, who complained to the forest officials.

Accordingly, the forest officials decided to trap the animal. They installed a cage in the location where the tiger was often sighted.

At least 7 forest staff were held in the cage **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

The forest officials put a goat as bait but the tiger did not get trapped and continued to scare villagers, especially at night.

The villagers made repeated pleas to the forest officials to catch the tiger.

Seeing no prompt response from the forest department, the villagers protested by locking them in the cage.

The district in June had witnessed the death of a tigress and her four cubs. *—PTI*

'GUV CAN'T VETO BILLS'

Prez, Guvs only titular heads: K'taka to SC

BENGALURU, 9 SEPT

The State government told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that under the constitutional scheme, the President and Governors are only "titular heads" and are bound to act on the advice of the council of ministers, both at the Centre and in the States.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramanian, appearing for Karnataka, told a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice (CJI) BR Gavai, said that Article 361 granted immunity to President and governors from any criminal proceeding, for they did not perform any executive function and when it came to Governor's satisfaction required for acting on bills passed by assembly, it meant satisfaction of the council of ministers.

K'taka Guv Thaawarchand Gehlot, Tamil Nadu Guv Rn Ravi **PHOTO: X**

Referring to verdicts, he said neither the President nor the governors exercised executive power in their personal capacity. The Constitution, he said, did not envisage "parallel administrations" or allow governors to override elected governments.

Referring to the 44th constitutional amendment, he said it permitted President to send ministerial advice back for reconsideration but it ultimately bound her to accept the bill. He said if the Centre's submissions were to be accepted, then governors would be above judicial review, becoming an "all-pervading authority".

"The Governor is not an agent of the union but takes oath for the well-being of the state," he submitted, cautioning against resurrecting such a doctrine and hark back to colonial frameworks.

Referring to Article 200, he said the Constitution provided only three options, granting assent, returning the bill for reconsideration or reserving it for President. "There is no fourth option of withholding assent indefinitely. Any suggestion of an unqualified veto is antithetical to the Constitution," he added.

He warned even money bills, which deal with financial matters such as salaries, could not be kept pending. *—PTI*

'State's GCCs maturing faster than national peers'

BENGALURU, 9 SEPT

State Minister Priyank Kharge announced on Tuesday that the state's mid-market Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are maturing 1.4 times faster than their counterparts across India. At the launch of the Katalyst Karnataka GCC Handbook, he attributed this growth to the State's robust ecosystem, where talent, innovation, and supportive policies enable global enterprises to scale efficiently and achieve superior outcomes.

"Katalyst functions as a dedicated ease-of-doing-business cell, offering streamlined clearances, single-window support, and a practical playbook for new GCCs," Kharge, who oversees the Information Technology and Biotechnology portfolio, stated. He expressed confidence that Katalyst will ensure that the state's leadership in the sector not only continues but multiplies in the coming years.

The State is recognised as a premier GCC destination in India, housing over 30 per cent of the country's GCCs, with City alone employing more than 600,000 professionals in the sector. The government noted that in the past three years, 43 per cent of all new GCCs established in India have opted for the State, reflecting the confidence global enterprises have in the state's ecosystem. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

3 soldiers killed as avalanche strikes Ladakh's camp

LEH, 9 SEPT

Three soldiers lost their lives when an avalanche struck Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, in the Union territory of Ladakh, officials said on Tuesday. The avalanche occurred in the 12,000-feet-high Siachen base camp area, trapping three soldiers, including two Agniveers, the officials said. They said a rescue operation was immediately launched, and the bodies of the trapped soldiers were retrieved on Tuesday. Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps identified the deceased as Sepoy Mohit Kumar, Agniveers Niraj Kumar Choudhary and Dabhi Rakesh Devabhai. In a post on X, Fire and Fury Corps saluted the sacrifice of the soldiers and offered condolences to the bereaved families. *—PTI*

2 jawans, terrorists killed in Kulgam encounter so far

SRINAGAR, 9 SEPT

A joint operation by the Army, CRPF, and Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Gudar forest area of Kulgam district entered its second day on Tuesday, following a fierce encounter with terrorists that began on Monday. The search operation was launched based on specific intelligence about terrorist activity in the area. During the gunfight, two soldiers, Subedar Perbhat Gaur and Lance Naik Narender Sindhu, were killed, while an Army major sustained injuries and is reported to be stable. Security forces neutralised two terrorists: one a local militant and the other believed to be a Pakistani national, reportedly using the code name 'Rehman Bhai'. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid tributes to the soldiers. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA

Mauritius PM arrives in Mumbai for 8-day visit

MUMBAI, 9 SEPT

Prime Minister of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam reached Mumbai on Tuesday at the start of his eight-day visit to India. Ramgoolam landed at Mumbai airport in the morning by a commercial flight from Port Louis, an official said. The Mauritius PM will leave for Varanasi by a special flight on Wednesday afternoon after attending a business event at a luxury hotel in Mumbai in the morning, he added. Ramgoolam is on an eight-day visit to India to explore ways to further shore up bilateral ties in several key areas such as defence, trade and investment. *—PTI*

'400 scientists at ISRO worked 24x7 on Op Sindoor'

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Over 400 scientists at ISRO worked tirelessly to support national security operations during Operation Sindoor, chairperson V Narayanan announced at the 52nd National Management Convention of the All India Management Association. "During Operation Sindoor, all satellites were working 24x7 perfectly, enabling all requirements," Narayanan stated. He highlighted the pivotal role of earth observation and communication satellites, as the operation tested advanced air defence systems. Narayanan also reported that ISRO has completed 7,700 ground tests under its Gaganyaan project, aiming for India's first human spaceflight by 2027, with three planned uncrewed missions starting in December. *—PTI*

Farmer's son to SC judge, Reddy rose through ranks

Oppn considers him as one who belonged to rare breed of jurists

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

After upholding the Constitution first as a jurist and then as a Supreme Court judge, Opposition's vice presidential candidate B Sudershan Reddy sought to continue his battle this time by protecting it. However, he lost vice presidential election to NDA's CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday.

Early in life, Reddy came under the influence of socialist thinkers, particularly late Rammanohar Lohia and later he actively participated in the movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan.

The Opposition considered him as one who belonged to the rare breed of jurists who saw the Constitution as providing a blueprint for upliftment of India's poorest and most deprived, and how the State should use its powers best to attain that goal.

Born on 8 July, 1946 in an agricultural family in Akula Mylaram village of Rangareddy district in present Telangana, Justice Reddy had his primary education in neighbouring villages as there was no school in his native village.

Opposition's vice presidential candidate B Sudershan Reddy PHOTO: PTI

After graduating from the Osmania University, he enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh in 1971 and rose to the position of a permanent judge of High Court of Andhra Pradesh in 1995.

After a decade of eventful service on the Bench, he was elevated as Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court in 2005. He was appointed as judge, Supreme Court of India in January 2007.

Reddy was well known for rendering several landmark judgments upholding the principles of Constitution and social justice in the country.

In one of his judgments, while dealing with the power of the government to deal with the public property observed that "there is nothing like a Government property. It is a public property of which the Government as a day is only a trustee. The public properties cannot be parted away by the Government in its discretion as it pleases."

In July 2011, Reddy was part of a bench that ordered disbanding of Salwa Judum, ruling that using tribal youths as Special Police Officers in the fight against Maoist insurgents was illegal and unconstitutional. This judgment came under attack from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who accused him of "supporting" Naxalism. *—PTI*

Nepalese Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba being attacked by protesters amid massive anti-government protests, in Nepal PHOTO: PTI

Indo-Nepal border security tightened amid rising protest

BALRAMPUR/NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) that guards the 1751-km-long unfenced international front with Nepal has stepped up security across all its border posts and vulnerable points in the wake of unrest in Nepal, officials said.

"Additional forces have been deployed at 22 outposts of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) along the border, while police stations in five border areas are keeping surveillance through drone cameras," Superintendent of Police Vikas Kumar said in Balrampur.

He added that intelligence agencies have been instructed to maintain strict monitoring, and all personnel deployed along the 85-km-long border in Balrampur have been directed to remain on high alert.

Police teams and SSB jawans are conducting joint patrols, while 'Operation Kavach' committees in the region have been asked to stay active and keep a close watch on cross-border movement.

Additionally, Air India cancelled four flights between Delhi and Kathmandu amid massive anti-government protests in the neighbouring nation. IndiGo and Nepal Airlines also cancelled their flights.

Meanwhile, the political unrest has led to near-complete halt in movement across international borders at Panitanki in the northern part of West Bengal, leaving hundreds of trucks stranded on the Indian side, officials said on Tuesday. *—PTI*

BRICS, originally comprises of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia PHOTO: PTI

BRICS are 'vampires': Navarro

NEW YORK, 9 SEPT

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro has sharply criticised the BRICS alliance, claiming its members "all hate each other" and likening their trade practices to "vampires" exploiting the United States.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, with Indonesia joining in 2025. Navarro said he could not see the alliance lasting, arguing that none of its members can survive without access to the US market.

In an interview with Real America's Voice, Navarro launched a broad critique of the member nations. He accused India of imposing the highest tariffs on US goods among major countries and of profiteering from Russian oil imports since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He warned that continued alignment with Russia and China "won't end well" for India. Navarro also recalled China's support to Pakistan's nuclear programme and claimed Beijing is "colonising Siberia" and eyeing Russia's port of Vladivostok.

Navarro described Brazil's economy as "going down the tubes" under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, highlighting the legal troubles of former president Jair Bolsonaro, currently under house arrest.

He suggested that Brazilian policies reflect a socialist agenda undermining the country's potential. *—PTI*

Israel FM backs India amid tariff war

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich expressed optimism about reaching an agreement with the US on tariffs, despite current trade tensions. Speaking in Delhi with ANI, Smotrich highlighted the long-standing relationships between India, Israel, and US, noting that differences are natural but can be resolved through dialogue. Smotrich emphasised that Israel and India share common values, friends, enemies, and economic interests, which form strong foundation. Smotrich's remarks reflect Israel's support for India in navigating these trade challenges, emphasising that behind-the-scenes efforts are underway to boost economic ties between the nations. *—ANI*

'India, China should counter tariffs together'

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong has expressed strong opposition to the Trump administration's tariffs of up to 50 per cent on India, describing them as "unfair and unreasonable". Speaking at an event commemorating the 80th anniversary of China's victory over Japan, Xu urged India and China to enhance their economic cooperation. "The trade war was started by US... It is using the tariff as a kind of weapon," he stated, asserting the need for the two nations to strategise together. He added that China proposes "all forms of terrorism" and expressed readiness to collaborate with India in this area. *—PTI*

UK PM to visit India in Oct to boost tech ties

LONDON, 9 SEPT

Keir Starmer's first visit to India as British Prime Minister is expected in early October and will have a sharp focus on the India-UK tech partnership when he is scheduled to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 in Mumbai, officials indicated on Tuesday.

GFF 2025, organised by the Payments Council of India, the National Payments Corporation of India and the Fintech Convergence Council, is billed as the world's largest fintech conference to be held at the Jio World Centre between 7 and 9 October.

It will make Mumbai the focal point of Starmer's visit, just over two months after Modi's visit to Britain to sign off on the bilateral Free Trade Agreement, which is undergoing a parliamentary ratification process.

He may also visit Bengaluru after he wraps up the Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool.

Keir Starmer PHOTO: PTI

India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, FTA's officially name, was clinched during Modi's UK visit on 24 July. It aims to double bilateral trade to USD 120 billion by 2030.

Policymakers, bankers, investors, and academics will deliberate on leveraging fintech to build a better world. GFF theme is: 'Empowering finance for a better world powered by AI'. *—PTI*

NIA raids 5 states linked to ISIS case

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has searched 21 locations in five states as part of its probe in a terror conspiracy case linked with the ISIS and other terrorist organisations, officials said on Tuesday.

The searches were conducted in the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as well as Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, they said.

The NIA seized several digital devices, including mobile phones, along with incriminatory documentary materials during the searches, according to an official statement.

The case emanated with the arrest Mohammed Akhlque Mujahid, who allegedly conspired with others to commit terrorist acts in India, it said. *—PTI*

Land is currency of victory in war: Army Chief

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi has underscored the vital role of land forces in warfare, asserting that control of land will remain the "currency of victory" for India.

Speaking at a recent event, he elaborated on the importance of ground forces, referencing a recent summit in Alaska between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding the Ukraine conflict.

"When you go back to the Alaska conference that took place between the two presidents, they just discussed how much land has to exchange hands," Dwivedi remarked.

He further noted that India faces "two-and-a-half front threats," reinforcing his belief that land forces will continue to play a crucial role in achieving victory.

His comments followed those of Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who had previously mentioned that Operation Sindoor reiterated the "primacy" of air power. *—PTI*

B'DESH SEEKS RENEWED GANGA TREATY, FLOOD DATA

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

At a latest meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission (JRC), Bangladesh expressed its desire for an extended renewal period for the Ganga Waters Treaty and requested more comprehensive flood data sharing between the two nations.

Indian officials reiterated their commitment to sharing hydrological data and supporting flood management but warned that amendments to treaty provisions would require careful consideration of domestic needs and coordination with state governments.

Bangladesh requested a guaranteed release of 40,000 cusecs of water from February to May under the treaty; however, India explained that water availability at the Farakka barrage is subject to technical factors.

Currently, India releases 35,000 cusecs during this period.

The delegation from Bangladesh also proposed the establishment of a special institution to oversee water-sharing arrangements for several rivers, while highlighting the necessity for a joint flood forecasting system.

The officials noted that no decisions were reached during the meeting, which primarily served as a preparatory exercise ahead of the treaty's 2026 renewal. *—PTI*

MODI SURVEYS DAMAGE

Punjab gets ₹1.6K cr, Himachal gets ₹1.5K cr

CHANDIGARH/SHIMLA, 9 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a financial assistance of Rs 1,600 crore for flood-hit Punjab and an immediate relief of Rs 1,500 crore for rain-affected Himachal Pradesh.

He took stock of the situation in both the states in the wake of floods and landslides and also conducted aerial surveys of the affected areas.

Modi first went to Himachal Pradesh and after an aerial survey, held a meeting in Kangra to review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken as well as assess the damage.

He also announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia for the next of kin of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured in Himachal Pradesh, where cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains wreaked havoc. The financial assistance of Rs 1,500 crore to the hill state will be the advance release of the second instalment of SDRF and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with members of NDRF, SDRF and Aapda Mitra team during a visit to disaster-hit areas, in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh PHOTO: PTI

In Punjab, which is battling its worst deluge since 1988, Modi announced the Rs 1,600-crore assistance in addition to the Rs 12,000 crore already in the state's kitty. He also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured in the floods and natural calamity.

In both the states, Modi emphasised the need for a multi-dimensional approach to help the entire region and its people recover. *—PTI*

- In Maharashtra, Marathwada saw most deaths at 50
- 1,049 animals died
- 3,388 houses damaged
- Crops on 5.62 lakh hectares land destroyed
- 15.78 lakh farmers affected

Out of the total road length of 42,000 km in Jammu and Kashmir, around

12,000 km

suffered damage. 105 bridges also collapsed

PHOTO: PTI

Delhi CM Secretariat, college get bomb threat

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

A bomb threat email directed at the Delhi Chief Minister's Secretariat and Maulana Azad Medical College prompted an urgent security response on Tuesday. Following the threat, the Delhi Fire Service sent multiple fire tenders. Delhi Police reported that bomb detection and disposal teams were deployed at both locations. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan assured that there was "no cause for panic" and confirmed that cyber police were investigating the email's origin. Initial findings suggested the message may have been intended for another location, "but we are treating it with utmost seriousness," he added, noting that all the safety procedures were being meticulously followed. *—PTI*

MP: 14 IAS, 50 IPS officers transferred in big reshuffle

BHOPAL, 9 SEPT

In a significant administrative reshuffle, the Madhya Pradesh government has transferred 14 IAS and 50 IPS officers. The changes, announced late Monday night, affect collectors in five districts and superintendents of police in 16 districts. Sudam Pandrinath Khade has become Indore's divisional commissioner, while Deepak Saxena will succeed him as Commissioner Public Relations. Other notable transfers include Ashish Tiwari becoming Katni collector and Rajesh Singh Chandel appointed as DIG Bhopal (Rural). An official stated that the reshuffle aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of governance in the state. *—PTI*

5 injured in AC blast at pizza parlour in Delhi

KASARAGOD, 9 SEPT

Five people, including three employees, sustained minor injuries after an AC compressor blast triggered a fire at a Pizza Hut outlet in Delhi's Yamuna Vihar. The fire was quickly doused and all injured were discharged after treatment. However, Pizza Hut India denied that the fire took place inside the outlet. Meanwhile, in Faridabad, three members of a family and their pet dog died after an AC compressor exploded in their building around 1.30 am. Police have registered cases in both incidents; investigations are ongoing. *—PTI*

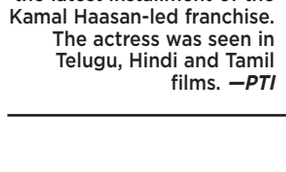


PHOTO: PTI

Kajal Aggarwal rubbishes death rumours

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Actor Kajal Aggarwal has addressed online death rumours with a humorous post on X, stating she is "perfectly fine" and "doing very well." The veteran actress, known for roles in 'Magadheera' and 'Singham' clarified the unfounded claims of an accident were "absolutely untrue." "By the grace of God, I assure you all that I am perfectly fine, safe, and doing very well," the 40-year-old wrote. She urged fans to avoid spreading false news and focus on "positivity and truth," following her recent appearances in 'Sikander'and "Kannappa." Aggarwal will also feature in "Indian 3," the latest installment of the Kamal Haasan-led franchise. The actress was seen in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil films. *—PTI*

Malegaon victims move HC against Pragya's acquittal

They say faulty probe cannot be ground for acquitting accused

MUMBAI, 9 SEPT

Six families of the victims killed in the 2008 Malegaon blast have filed an appeal in the Bombay High Court, challenging the acquittal of seven accused, including BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit. The appeal contests the special NIA court's 31 July verdict that cleared all accused of involvement due to lack of cogent evidence.

The petition, filed through advocate Mateen Shaikh, argues that conspiracies are often hatched in secrecy and direct evidence cannot always be expected. It claims the trial court erred in concluding that strong suspicion did not amount to sufficient evidence for conviction.

The appeal asserts that the special court wrongly dismissed links between Thakur and the motorcycle used in the blast, and Purohit and the procurement of RDX. It further accuses the National Investigation Agency (NIA) of diluting the case after taking over from the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), which had initially unearthed a conspiracy involving right-wing extremists.

The appeal asserts that the special court wrongly dismissed links between Pragya Thakur and the motorcycle used in the blast *PHOTO: ANI*

The petition criticises the court for acting as a "post-office" rather than taking an active role when the prosecution failed to elicit critical facts. It emphasises that the trial judge has a duty to question witnesses and seek the truth when justice is at stake.

Concerns were also raised over the removal of special public prosecutor Rohini Salian, who had previously claimed the NIA pressured her to go soft on the accused.

The appeal seeks to overturn the acquittal and convict the accused, stating that since the arrests, no similar blasts have occurred in minority-populated areas. The High Court is expected to hear the matter on 15 September before a bench led by Justice AS Gadkari.

The 29 September 2008 blast near a Malegaon Mosque killed six and injured over 100. *—PTI*

Karisma Kapoor and Sunjay Kapoor married in 2003 but divorced in 2016. Sunjay died at the age of 53 from a heart attack *PHOTO: PTI*

Karisma's kids move HC for share in dad's Rs 30,000 cr estate

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

The two children of Bollywood actor Karisma Kapoor on Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking share in their late father Sunjay Kapur's assets, reportedly worth Rs 30,000 crore.

The plaint, which is likely to come up for hearing on 10 September, challenges Sunjay's 21 March will, which purportedly leaves his entire personal estate to their step-mother, Priya Kapur.

The plaint claims neither Sunjay mentioned the will, nor Priya, or any other person, ever mentioned about its existence. It alleges the conduct of Priya demonstrated "without a doubt, that the alleged will has been fabricated" by her.

The plaint has sought partition, rendition of accounts and a permanent injunction with respect to their late father's estate. It sought a direction to Priya to disclose the entire personal assets and effects of Sunjay at the time of his death.

While the daughter has filed the plaint through her mother, Karisma, authorising her as her general power of attorney, the son, a minor, is also represented by the mother as the legal guardian.

Karisma and Sunjay married in 2003 but divorced in 2016. Sunjay died at the age of 53 from a heart attack while playing polo in the UK after he swallowed a bee.

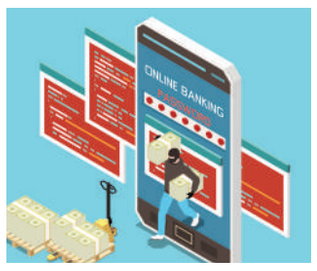
His mother Rani Kapur too claimed foul play and said that after Sunjay's death, she was denied access to all his accounts and is now dependent on others for survival. *—PTI*

500 in Wayanad fall prey to mule bank account scam

WAYANAD, 9 SEPT

Over 500 residents of Wayanad, mostly youth, have fallen victim to a "mule account" scam, where fraudsters from outside the district misused their bank accounts for illegal transactions, cyber police revealed on Tuesday.

Investigators say fraudsters offered locals between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 to rent or sell their bank account details. These accounts were then used for scams and money laundering, resulting in criminal cases being filed against account holders in states such as Nagaland, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.



Within the Kambalakkad police station limits alone, six people are facing cases. One of them, 27-year-old Ismayil, was arrested by Nagaland Police and taken to Kohima. Another youth, Muhammed Fanish, has been served notice by Dehradun Police over a Rs 58,000 transaction. A woman named Salmath faces a case in Lucknow after her brother allegedly shared her bank account details with fraudsters.

A relative of Ismayil said the family is struggling without legal support after he was taken into custody eight days ago. "We don't know how to get him bail," the elderly man said. Cyber police confirmed similar scams are emerging in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. Locals warn that middlemen are actively targeting youth in the region, often gaining access to OTPs and full account details before vanishing. *—PTI*

Hilsa prices pinch pockets this pooja

KOLKATA, 9 SEPT

Despite the Md Yunus-led Bangladesh government approving the export of 1,200 metric tonnes of hilsa to India ahead of Durga Pooja, fish importers in West Bengal remain sceptical about its impact on local markets.

Traders cite two major concerns: reduced export volume compared to previous years and a 25 per cent hike in import costs. Bangladesh has fixed Rs 1,100 per kg as the base price, up from Rs 880 last year. This could push retail prices in West Bengal to between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,500 per kg.

"We expected approval for at least 3,000 metric tonnes. The limited quota means 'Padmar Ilish' will remain costly and out of reach for many," said Atul Chandra Das, President, Fish Importers' Association of Bengal.

Hilsa is imported via land borders in West Bengal and Tripura, with Petrapole handling 80 per cent of the trade. However, traders warn the actual supply may be far lower due to poor catch this season.

While some suspected political motives, Das ruled that out, attributing the low export to declining fish stocks. The shortfall could daAmpen festive cheer for hilsa lovers across eastern India. *—PTI*

RAJ KUNDRA SUMMONED IN RS 60 CR SCAM

MUMBAI, 9 SEPT

Businessman and Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty's husband, Raj Kundra, has been summoned by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police in connection with an alleged Rs 60 crore cheating case, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

Kundra, accused of diverting loan funds for personal use, has been asked to appear before EOW officials on 15 September. A Look-Out Circular (LOC) was issued last week against both Kundra and Shetty to prevent them from leaving the country. However, only Kundra has been summoned to record his statement.

The case, registered at Juhu police station on 14 August, was filed by businessman Deepak Kothari (60), director of Lotus Capital Finance Services, a non-banking financial company. Kothari claims he was duped by Kundra and Shetty in a loan-cum-investment deal facilitated by an acquaintance, Rajesh Arya. Kundra and Shetty, directors of Best Deal TV Pvt Ltd, allegedly sought a ₹75 crore loan, disguised as an investment to avoid taxes. Kothari transferred Indian ₹31.9 crore in April 2015 and Indian ₹28.53 crore in September 2015. *—PTI*

Aishwarya moves HC over morphed AI pics

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

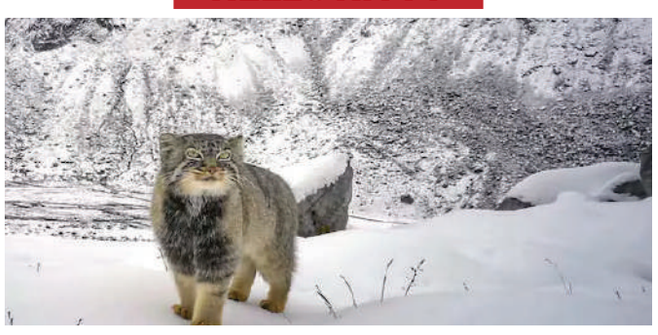
Bollywood actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of her personality rights, urging a halt to the unauthorised use of her name, image, and AI-generated pornographic content online.

Justice Tejas Karia indicated he would issue an ad-interim order against the defendants, which include several unnamed parties. The plea alleges the use of deepfake and AI technology to create explicit content by morphing Rai's face, alongside the sale of merchandise like T-shirts and mugs featuring her image, all without consent.

Senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, representing Rai, said her likeness was being exploited for commercial gain and even for satisfying "someone's sexual desires," calling it "very unfortunate." The actor seeks to enforce her publicity and personality rights, including control over her name, image, voice, likeness, and signature style.

Defendants include websites such as aishwaryaworld.com, apkpure.com, bollywoodteeshop.com, kashcollectiveco.com, e-commerce platform Etsy, YouTube channels, Google LLC, AI chatbot jainatorai.com, and government bodies like the IT Ministry and DoT. The court scheduled the next hearing before the joint registrar on 7 November and listed the matter for further proceedings on 15 January, 2026. *—PTI*

HELLO KITTY



For the first time, the elusive Pallas' Cat, an extremely rare wild feline the size of a house cat, has been captured on camera in Arunachal Pradesh at nearly 5,000m above sea level *PHOTO: PTI*

Cops files closure report in Ramdev's Covid cure case

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

The Supreme Court has been informed that Chhattisgarh Police has filed a closure report in the case concerning yoga guru Ramdev's controversial remarks about allopathic medicine during the Covid-19 pandemic. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed Justices MM Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma that complaints against Ramdev appeared to be "sponsored" by certain interested groups.

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, representing Ramdev, noted that while Chhattisgarh had responded to previous directives, Bihar had yet to do so. The bench has adjourned the matter until December. The Patna and Raipur chapters of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) lodged complaints in 2021, alleging that Ramdev's comments could undermine Covid-19 control efforts and discourage people from seeking appropriate treatment.

- Ramdev sought an interim stay on investigations into the criminal complaints against him.

Ramdev sought an interim stay on investigations into the criminal complaints against him, asserting that his statement rejecting allopathic medicine had sparked the legal actions.

Following criticism from then Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Ramdev recanted his statements.

The Delhi Medical Association has also sought to join the case, claiming Ramdev's remarks insulted allopathy and incited public disregard for vaccines. *—PTI*

UNDERDIAGNOSIS A CHALLENGE

'Only 44% diabetics diagnosed in India'

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

About 44 per cent of the world's diabetic population remained undiagnosed in 2023, with underdiagnosis and poor glycaemic control posing serious challenges in low- and middle-income countries, according to a new study published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology.

The analysis, part of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, revealed that only 43.6 per cent of diabetics in India were diagnosed in 2023 — a 14 per cent rise from 2000. Of those diagnosed, over 97 per cent were under treatment. The study analysed data from 2000 to 2023 across 204 countries and territories.

Globally, over 55 per cent of individuals aged 15 and above with diabetes were diagnosed. However, access to timely diagnosis and proper treatment remains uneven.

"By 2050, 1.3 billion people are expected to be living with diabetes. If nearly half remain unaware of their condition, this could easily turn into a silent epidemic," said lead author Lauryn Stafford from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington. Researchers from AIIMS, New Delhi, also contributed.

North America recorded the highest diagnosis rates, while high-income Asia Pacific countries, including Japan and South Korea, reported the highest treatment rates. Southern Latin America, particularly Chile and Argentina, saw the best glycaemic control among treated patients.

In contrast, central sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest awareness, with fewer than 20 per cent of diabetics diagnosed. Researchers stressed the urgent need for investment in youth-focused screening programmes, even as access to medicines and glucose-monitoring tools improves in underserved regions. The WHO aims to have 80 per cent of diabetics diagnosed and effectively managing glycaemia and blood pressure by 2030. *—PTI*

Globally, over 55 per cent of individuals aged 15 and above with diabetes were diagnosed *PHOTO: PIXABAY*

Indore, Amravati, Dewas lead in clean air quality

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Indore, Amravati and Dewas on Tuesday emerged as top performers in curbing air pollution under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

At an award event here, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said several cities have achieved significant progress despite being industrial hubs or having coal mines. He announced that from next year, wards within cities will also be assessed for their air pollution control efforts, and released guidelines for this.

Indore ranked first among cities with more than 10 lakh population, followed by Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh). Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) shared the third spot.

In the 3-10 lakh population category, Amravati (Maharashtra) stood first, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) and Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) were joint second, while Alwar (Rajasthan) took the third position. Among smaller cities with less than 3 lakh people, Dewas (Madhya Pradesh) bagged the top rank, followed by Parwanoo (Himachal Pradesh) and Angul (Odisha). He also awarded Indore and Udaipur for earning international recognition as wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention. Launched in 2019, NCAP is the country's first national initiative to set clean air targets, aiming at a 40 per cent cut in particulate pollution by 2026. *—PTI*

Riot police use a water cannon on protesters outside Parliament in Kathmandu, Nepal **PHOTO:PTI**

Nepal's revolution is a trend on subduing online freedom

Nepal's crackdown on social media companies, which led to protests and police killing at least 19 people, is part of a yearlong decline of internet freedoms around the world as even democracies seek to curtail online speech.

The Himalayan country's government said last week it was blocking several social media platforms including Facebook, X and YouTube because the companies failed to comply with a requirement that they register with the government. The ban was lifted Tuesday a day after the deadly protests.

What's happening in Nepal mirrors "this broader pattern of controlling the narrative and controlling of stories emerging from the ground," said Aditya Vashistha, an assistant professor of information science at Cornell University. This has happened several times in the neighbouring countries Pakistan and Bangladesh, he said.

"So this is nothing new - in fact, I would say this is taken from the playbook, which is now very established, of trying to control social media narratives," Vashistha said.

Like neighbouring countries, Nepal's government have been asking the companies to appoint a liaison in the country.

Officials are calling for laws to to monitor social media and ensure both the users and operators are responsible and accountable for what they share. But the move has been criticised as a tool for censorship and punishing opponents who voice protests online.

"Governments absolutely have a valid interest in seeking to regulate social media platforms. This is such a daily part of our lives and in our business. And it is certainly reasonable for authorities to sit down and say we want to develop rules for the road," said Kian Vesteinsson, senior research analyst for technology and democracy at the Washington-based nonprofit Freedom House.

Several structures were set on fire during the protests in Kathmandu, Nepal **PHOTO:PTI**

Students hold a protest over alleged corruption and Nepal government's decision to ban social media sites, in Kathmandu **PHOTO:PTI**

"But what we see in Nepal is that wholesale blocks as a means of enforcing a set of rules for social media companies results in wildly disproportionate harms. These measures that were put in place in Nepal (cut) tens of millions of people off from platforms that they used to express themselves, to conduct daily business, to speak with their families, to go to school, to get healthcare information."

It's not just Nepal. Freedom House has found that global internet freedom has declined for the 14th consecutive year in 2024, as government's crackdown on dissent and people face arrest for expressing political, social or religious views online.

While China consistently tops the list as the "world's worst environment" for internet freedom, last year Myanmar shared this designation as well. The organisation did not track Nepal.

In January, Pakistan's lower house of parliament passed a bill that gives the government sweeping controls on social media, including sending users to prison for spreading disinformation.

Increasingly, though, governments are putting up roadblocks.

Often, regulations are in the name of child safety, cybercrime or fraud, Vesteinsson said, "but unfortunately, a lot of this regulation comes hand in hand with restrictive measures."

In the Nepali law, for instance, "the same provision of this law, directs social media platforms to restrict content relating to child trafficking and human trafficking and labour, a really important issue," he added. "Two bullet points above that, it orders platforms to restrict people from posting anonymously."

The Committee to Protect Journalists said Monday that the protests "underscore the widespread concerns over Nepal's ban on social media and the pressing need for the government to drop its order. Such a sweeping ban not only restricts freedom of expression, it also severely hinders journalists' work and the public's right to know."

The crackdown appears to have spurred a surge in use of virtual private networks, or VPNs, according to Proton, which provides encrypted services. Signups for Proton's VPN service in Nepal have jumped by 8,000 per cent since 3 September, according to data the company posted online.

But experts caution that VPNs are not an end-all solution to government internet blocks. They can be expensive and out of reach for many people, Vashistha noted, and they can be slow and lead to lower-quality experiences when people try to access blocked social platforms.

Google, Meta, X and TikTok didn't respond to requests.

Vesteinsson said companies can take important steps to safeguard privacy of their users - particularly human rights defenders and activists who might be a specific target for government repression in their countries.

"It's enormously important for social media platforms to be responsible to their users in that way," he said. *—PTI*

SALAR

Oli kindled hope amid Nepal's political instability

Veteran politician KP Sharma Oli, who wrecked many governments in the past, kindled hopes for much-needed political stability in Nepal when he assumed power for the third time in 2024, but that proved to be short-lived due to his own actions.

Known for his pro-China stance, Oli was forced to resign in the face of massive protests by youths over corruption and a government ban on social media that resulted in the death of at least 19 people in police firing and injuries to hundreds.

The 73-year-old leader's ouster has once again pushed Nepal, which has had 14 governments in the last 17 years, into political instability.

He came to power in July 2024 after he ditched his one-time friend Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and joined hands with his foe-turned-friend Sher Bahadur Deuba, who was leading the largest party - Nepali Congress - in the House of Representatives.

Oli, the CPN-UML Chairman, defended his party's decision to ditch 'Prachanda' and form a coalition government with the Nepali Congress, saying it was required for maintaining political stability and development of the country.

Oli, who joined politics as a student activist in his teenage years and spent 14 years in jail for opposing the now-abolished monarchy, became Nepal's prime minister for the first time in October 2015. During his 11-month stint, Kathmandu's ties with New Delhi strained.

He publicly criticised India for interfering in Nepal's internal matters and accused it of toppling his government. He, however, promised to forge a partnership with India to move forward towards the path of

economic prosperity ahead of assuming office for the second term.

Oli became prime minister for the second time in February 2018 when the alliance between the CPN (Unified Marxist–Leninist) and 'Prachana'-led CPN (Maoist Centre) won a majority in the House of Representatives in the 2017 elections. After their victory, the two parties formally merged in May 2018.

During his second term, Oli claimed that efforts were being made to oust him after his government redrew Nepal's political map by incorporating three strategically key Indian territories, a move that strained ties between the two countries.

Oli accused his rivals within the party of making efforts to topple his government.

He served as the prime minister from 5 February, 2018, to 13 May, 2021. He continued to serve from 13 May, 2021, to 13 July, 2021 -- because of an appointment by the then President Bidya Devi Bhandari, described by local media as a success of Oli's Machiavellian tricks.

Later, the Supreme Court ruled that Oli's claim to the post of prime minister was unconstitutional.

Born on 22 February, 1952, in Terhathum of the eastern Nepal district, Oli is the eldest child of Mohan Prasad and Madhumaya Oli. His wife, Rachana Shakya, is also a communist activist, and the two had met in the course of party activities.

Oli started his political career as a student activist in 1966 by joining the fight against the autocratic Panchayat System under the direct rule of the King.

He joined the Communist Party of Nepal in February 1970. He went underground soon after taking the party's membership. The same year, he was arrested for the first time by the Panchayat government.

In 1971, he took leadership of the Jhapa Rebellion, which was initiated by beheading landlords in the district.

Oli is one of the few political leaders of Nepal who spent several years in jail. He was imprisoned for 14 consecutive years from 1973 to 1987.

After his release from prison, he became a central committee member of UML in charge of the Lumbini Zone until 1990.

Following the 1990 democratic movement that brought down the Panchayat regime, Oli became a popular name in the country. In 1991, he became the founding chairman of Prajatantrik Rastriya Yuwa Sangh. A year later, he became the party's publicity department chief and established himself as a key figure in Nepali politics.

He was elected as a member of the House of Representatives for the first time from Jhapa district in 1991. Oli had also served as the minister of home affairs in 1994– 1995. He was re-elected to the House of Representatives from Jhapa electorate no 2 in 1999.

He had served as deputy prime minister during the interim government led by Girija Prasad Koirala in 2006 after the successful conclusion of the second People's Movement. *—PTI*

People look at a burnt police vehicle during protests against social media ban and corruption in Kathmandu, Nepal **PHOTO:PTI**

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Macron & France face uphill battle as 3rd leader falls in 14 months

Another prime minister gone. Another crisis is unfolding. In France, what once shocked is now routine.

Prime Minister Francois Bayrou is submitting his resignation on Tuesday after losing a crushing confidence vote in parliament. The third toppling of a head of government in 14 months leaves President Emmanuel Macron scrambling for a successor and a nation caught in a cycle of collapse.

Bayrou, 74, lasted just nine months in office. Even that was three times longer than his predecessor's.

He gambled on a budget demanding over EUR 40 billion in savings. The plan froze welfare, cut civil-service jobs, and even scrapped two public holidays that many French see as part of their national rhythm.

Bayrou warned that without action, the national debt, which is now 114 per cent of GDP, would bring "domination by creditors" as surely as by foreign powers.

Instead, he united his enemies. The far right of Marine Le Pen and a left-wing alliance voted him down, 364 to 194. Polls showed most French wanted him gone. By the time lawmakers cast their ballots, he already had invited allies to a farewell drink.

Macron appears boxed in

The President has promised to name a new prime minister "in the coming days." It will be his fourth in under two years.

There are several possible replacements: Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu, Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin, former Socialist premier Bernard Cazeneuve and Finance Minister Eric Lombard. The problem is not the personnel, though; it is the arithmetic.

Since Macron's snap election in 2024, parliament has been split into three rival blocs: far left, centrists, and far right. None commands a majority. France has no tradition of coalition-building, and every budget becomes a battle.

Macron has ruled out another election for now. Le Pen insists he must call one. With just 18 months left in his presidency and his approval rating at 15 per cent, the risk for Macron is existential.

Anger is rising in streets

On Monday night, about 11,000 demonstrators feted Bayrou's ouster outside town halls in "Bye Bye Bayrou" farewell drinks.

Some came for the celebration. Many stayed to organise.

Wednesday has been declared a day of action under the slogan "Block Everything." Protesters plan to shut fuel depots, highways, and city centres. The government is deploying 80,000 police.

Bayrou, 74, lasted just nine months in office. Even that was three times longer than his predecessor's **PHOTO: PTI**

France has seen mass uprisings before: pensions in 2023, the yellow vests in 2018. But this time the anger runs deeper. It is not just about one reform. It is about austerity, inequality and the sense that governments keep collapsing while nothing changes.

Budget presents a trap

The numbers are stark. France's deficit stands at nearly 6 per cent of GDP, which is about EUR 198 billion. EU rules demand it be cut below 3 per cent.

Bayrou's cuts fell on workers and retirees. Voters saw this as unfair. After years of tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, patience has snapped. Polls show an overwhelming majority of French people want higher taxes on the ultra-rich.

Earlier this year, the lower house passed a rich tax — a 2 per cent levy on fortunes above EUR 100 million. It would have hit fewer than 2,000 households but raised EUR 25 billion annually. Yet Macron's pro-business allies, historically wary of scaring off investment, killed it in the Senate.

For many, the contrast was glaring: austerity for millions, protection for billionaires.

The President is under pressure

Macron's room to manoeuvre is shrinking. A loyal centrist premier may survive only months. A Socialist might insist on wealth taxes that Macron refuses. New elections could hand Le Pen even greater power.

Le Pen, convicted of embezzlement and barred from office for five years, is appealing her sentence from January. In the meantime, she promotes her protege Jordan Bardella as a ready prime minister. The prospect is one Macron dreads.

Abroad, Macron seeks to project French influence in Ukraine and Gaza. At home, he looks cornered. Even whispers of resignation can be heard, though his departure is unlikely.

History is repeating

Four prime ministers in 16 months. A debt crisis is grinding the economy. A nation paralysed by political deadlock. It sounds like France today. In fact, it was France after World War II.

Out of that paralysis, Charles de Gaulle built the Fifth Republic, a system meant to banish such chaos forever. Seven decades later, the Republic he forged to ward off collapse is confronting the very crisis it was designed to prevent. Politics is now fractured into three camps. With no tradition of compromise, unlike Germany or Italy, the result is stalemate.

Why it matters

France is the eurozone's second-largest economy, its only nuclear power and a permanent United Nations Security Council member. Prolonged instability in the country reverberates far beyond its borders.

France's political difficulty weakens Europe's hand against Russia. It rattles investors and undermines the credibility of EU fiscal rules.

France's welfare system — pensions, health care, education — is not just policy. It is identity. Each attempt to trim the structure feels like an assault on model of solidarity that defines modern France.

Road ahead is not routine

Macron's next appointment will test whether the Fifth Republic can still deliver stability. Whoever takes the job will face the same trap that consumed Bayrou: pass a budget in a parliament that cannot agree.

France waits for a name, a budget, a way forward. For proof that order can still rise from drift and collapse is not the new routine. *—PTI*

ARMY TAKES OVER AS NEPAL BURNS

Kathmandu resembles a war zone as protesters clash violently with cops, torch buildings

KATHMANDU, 9 SEPT

The Nepal Army said that it will take charge of security operations from 10pm, hours after Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned following 27 hours of violent protests.

The Army said that "some groups are taking undue advantage of the difficult situation and causing severe damage to ordinary citizens and public property".

Meanwhile, Kathmandu, resembled a war zone as student-led protesters occupied public spaces, set vehicles ablaze, and clashed violently with police. Acrid black smoke filled the skyline, while the private residences of Oli and Paudel were stormed and torched.

People climb a government office in Kathmandu on Tuesday as protesters clash with security forces and set ablaze media houses and official buildings alike **PHOTO: PTI**

The unrest, initially triggered by a government-imposed ban on 26 social media platforms including Facebook and X, has now spiralled into a broader anti-corruption and pro-democracy movement, primarily led by Gen Z protesters. The ban was lifted late Monday, but the unrest did not stop.

Visuals showed protesters vandalising media offices including Kantipur, torching the Simrik Airlines building over allegations of aiding leaders' escape, and blocking roads with burning tyres. Violent demonstrations were reported across Kathmandu and Lalitpur, including Kalanki, Kalimati, Baneshwor, and Chyasal. In Birgunj, near the Indian border, an indefinite curfew has been imposed after widespread arson.

The Gen Z group, which has been campaigning against corruption for some time, has used social media platforms to expose what they called the "extravagant lifestyles of the children of ministers and other influential figures." Their demands now include a retirement age for politicians and constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression.

They have posted videos and images, questioning the sources of wealth that fund such opulence, purportedly derived from corrupt practices.

Oli's downfall came days after returning from a high-profile visit to China, where he attended the SCO summit and a military parade. China, his long-time ally, has yet to comment.

The crisis has sparked speculation about a possible return to monarchy, abolished in 2008.

The names of Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah and MP Sumana Shrestha are being floated as leadership alternatives. *—PTI*

Over 60 killed in ADF attack in Eastern Congo

GOMA, 9 SEPT

An overnight assault by the Islamic State-affiliated Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) has resulted in at least 60 deaths in Ntoyo, North Kivu in Eastern Congo according to local officials. The attack occurred as residents gathered for a burial. Col Alain Kiwewa, a local administrator, stated, "The ADF attack caused around 60 deaths, but the final toll will be given later this evening because the territory has just deployed services to the area to count the number of people killed." A survivor, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal, recounted, "There were about 10 of them. I saw machetes. They told people to gather in one place and started cutting them. I listened to people screaming and I fainted." *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

1.2K celebs pledge not to work with Israeli film bodies

LOS ANGELES, 9 SEPT

More than 1,200 celebrities from Hollywood including notable Oscar, BAFTA, Emmy and Palme d'Or winners like Olivia Colman, **Emma Stone** and **Mark Ruffalo** have signed a pledge refusing to work with Israeli institutions and companies implicated in genocide and apartheid against the Palestinian people. The list of celebrities which have signed the pledge includes filmmakers Yorgos Lanthimos, Ava DuVernay, Adam McKay, Boots Riley, Emma Seligman, Joshua Oppenheimer and Mike Leigh, and actors like Ayo Edebiri, Lily Gladstone, Hannah Einbinder, Peter Sarsgaard, Aimee Lou Wood, Paapa Essiedu, Gael Garcia Bernal, Riz Ahmed, Melissa Barrera, Cynthia Nixon, Tilda Swinton, Javier Bardem, Joe Alwyn and Josh O'Connor. *—PTI*

Pak, China to form consortium for $7B railway project

ISLAMABAD, 9 SEPT

Pakistan and China have announced the formation of a consortium comprising bilateral and multilateral partners to finance a USD 7 billion railway project as part of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has sparked controversy. Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China, the two nations agreed to establish a financing consortium that includes the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to support the 1,700km Karachi-Peshawar railway line. Iqbal stated, "China has assured financing not only for the rail project but also for the Karakoram Highway," with negotiations expected to conclude in a month. *—PTI*

ICC opens war crimes case against Uganda leader

THE HAGUE, 9 SEPT

The International Criminal Court (ICC) will commence its first-ever in absentia hearing on Tuesday against fugitive Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony, who is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity as the founder of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Kony faces 39 charges, including murder and sexual enslavement, linked to atrocities committed in northern Uganda during 2003 and 2004. While Kony remains at large despite a $5 million reward for his capture, a defence lawyer will represent him at the hearing. "If they can arrest Kony, I am very happy," said survivor Odong Kajumba, while former lawmaker Odonga Otto critiqued the proceedings, saying, "It's a mockery." *—PTI*

Israel calls for full evacuation of Gaza City

DEIR AL-BALAH, 9 SEPT

The Israeli military called for a full evacuation of Gaza City on Tuesday morning as it planned to expanded its offensive in the northern city. This comes as leading international groups have both said that Israel is committing a genocide against Palestinians as well as inducing a famine in the enclave.

35 people were killed in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, while at least 6 people starved to death.

The announcement was the first warning for a full evacuation of the city in the current round of fighting.

Defence Minister Israel Katz on Tuesday said Israel had demolished 30 high-rise buildings in Gaza, which it accused Hamas of using for military infrastructure.

There are an estimated 1 million Palestinians in the area of north Gaza around Gaza City, which is almost half of Gaza's population of 2.1 million **PHOTO: PTI**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel destroyed at least 50 "terror towers" that he said are used by Hamas. He called it the "only the introduction, only the beginning of the main intensive operation — the ground incursion of our forces."

There are an estimated 1 million Palestinians in the area of north Gaza around Gaza City, or around half of Gaza's population of 2.1 million.

The UN said many families can't evacuate even if they want to, because displacement sites are overcrowded and it can cost more than $1,000 to move to southern Gaza. *—PTI*

Russian bomb in eastern Ukraine kills 21

KYIV, 9 SEPT

A Russian glide bomb struck a village in eastern Ukraine as older people were lined up to receive their pensions on Tuesday, killing at least 21 and wounding nearly two dozen others, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

The bomb hit the village of Yarova in the Donetsk region, Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram.

"Frankly brutal," he said of the attack, urging the international community to make Russia pay economically for its full-scale invasion through additional sanctions.

"The world should not remain silent," Zelenskyy wrote. "The world should not remain inactive. The US needs a reaction. Europe needs a reaction. The G20 needs a reaction. Strong action is needed so that Russia stops bringing death."

Donetsk Governor Vadym Filashkin said the bombs struck a line of older people waiting to receive their pensions.

"This is not warfare. This is pure terrorism," he said.

The glide bombs are retrofitted Soviet weapons that have laid waste to eastern Ukraine for months. Some of them now weigh 1,360kgs, which is six times bigger than when they were first used in battle in 2022.

Yarova is located less than 10km from the front line. It was occupied by Russia in 2022, but was then liberated by Ukraine the same year. *—PTI*

Lanka to revoke ex-Prez's privileges

COLOMBO, 9 SEPT

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court has ruled that a bill aimed at withdrawing presidential privileges from former presidents and their widows can be passed in Parliament by a simple majority. Speaker Jagath Wickremaratna announced the court's ruling in Parliament on Tuesday, stating, "The Supreme Court has determined that no provision of the bill is inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution."

Following this decision, the parliamentary business committee has scheduled a debate on the bill for Wednesday. If approved, the legislation will terminate benefits such as official residences, monthly allowances, secretarial support, and transportation for former presidents and their widows.

The government introduced the bill to repeal all privileges granted since 1986. The ruling National People's Power party, views the privileges as a financial burden. *—PTI*

Former Thai PM Thaksin sentenced to one year

BANGKOK, 9 SEPT

Thailand's Supreme Court has ordered former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to serve a one-year prison sentence for graft and abuse of power convictions. The ruling follows an investigation into the mishandling of his 2023 return to Thailand after over a decade of self-exile.

The court found that Thaksin's detention in a police hospital did not count as time served. Following his return, Thaksin was swiftly admitted to a hospital, allegedly for medical issues, just hours after being jailed.

His original eight-year sentence was commuted to one year by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, and he was released on parole after six months of hospitalisation. *—PTI*

Israel takes full responsibility for Doha attack: Bibi

JERUSALEM, 9 SEPT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Tuesday took complete responsibility for the targeted airstrike in Qatar's Doha. The IDF stated that, together with Shin Bet and the Air Force, they had conducted a targeted strike against the top leadership of Hamas, who had been responsible for the 7 October massacre and were leading the conflict against Israel.

Netanyahu's office said that the strike was a fully independent Israeli operation. The statement said the attack was without external coordination or foreign involvement.

Israeli authorities said they used precision weaponry and intelligence to minimise civilian casualties.

The move marks a significant development in Israel's broader campaign to end Hamas's leadership in Gaza.

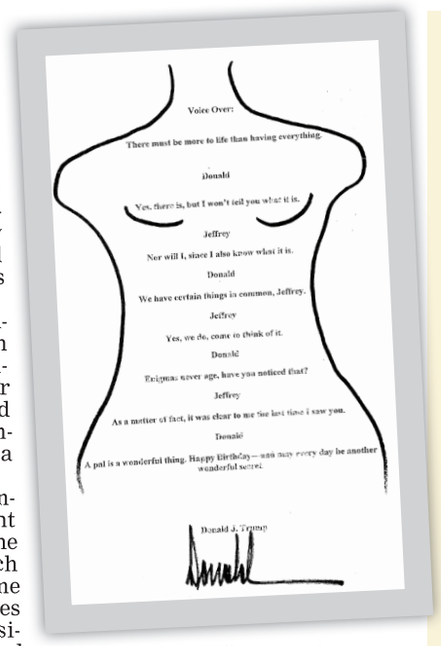
Qatar has strongly condemned the attack in Doha, saying that it targeted residential buildings housing Hamas political bureau members. Authorities are taking measures to ensure public safety. Iran also condemned the attack and called it a "gross violation". Other Middle-Eastern countries, like Syria, Yemen, Oman and Lebanon also condemned the attack. *—Agencies*

Democrats release Trump's explicit b'day letter to Epstein

WASHINGTON, 9 SEPT

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released on Monday a sexually suggestive letter to Jeffrey Epstein purportedly signed by President Donald Trump, which he has denied.

The letter was included as part of a 50th birthday album compiled in 2003 for Epstein, a wealthy and well-connected financier who was once a friend of Trump's.


Voice Over:
There must be more to life than having everything.
Donald
Yes, there is, but I won't tell you what it is.
Jeffrey
Nor will I, since I also know what it is.
Donald
We have certain things in common, Jeffrey.
Jeffrey
Yes, we do, come to think of it.
Donald
Enigmas: never age, have you noticed that?
Jeffrey
As a matter of fact, it was clear to me the last time I saw you.
Donald
A pal is a wonderful thing. Happy Birthday—and may every day be another wonderful secret.
Donald J. Trump

Trump's sexually suggestive letter leaked by Democrats **PHOTO: X**

The full House committee on Monday night released a copy of the entire album, which bore names of some other prominent figures such as former president Bill Clinton and attorney Alan Dershowitz in a "friends" section and included other letters with sexually provocative language.

Trump has said he did not write the letter or create the drawing, and he filed a USD 10 billion lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal for earlier reporting on it.

"It's very clear Trump did not draw this picture, and he did not sign it," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said. "Trump's legal team will continue to aggressively pursue litigation."

However, Mary Trump, said it "definitely" her uncle's signature. *—PTI*

Trump begins ICE crackdown in Chicago

The Trump administration launched a deportation crackdown in Illinois on Monday. Homeland Security said that "Operation Midway Blitz" was being conducted by ICE, but details were not immediately made clear.

SC lifts restrictions on LA immigration stops

The Supreme Court cleared the way for federal agents to conduct sweeping immigration operations in Los Angeles. The court lifted a restraining order from a judge who found that patrols were conducting indiscriminate stops in LA.

AMID EGYPT, SUDAN'S CONCERNS

Ethiopia inaugurates Africa's largest dam

ADDIS ABABA/ CAIRO, 9 SEPT

Ethiopia officially inaugurated Africa's largest hydroelectric dam on Tuesday, a project that will provide energy to millions of Ethiopians while deepening a rift with downstream Egypt and Sudan.

The $5 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile is expected to generate more than 5,000 megawatts of power and allow surplus electricity to be exported. It is among the 20 biggest hydroelectric dams in the world.

GERD has spawned regional tension since it began in 2011, with talks between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt still stalled.

$5 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile **PHOTO: ELC**

Last week, Sudan and Egypt released a joint statement calling Ethiopia's actions "unilateral" and saying the dam posed a "continuous threat to stability".

Egypt, which built its own Aswan High Dam on the Nile in the 1960s, fears the GERD could restrict its water supply during periods of drought. It has opposed the dam from the start, arguing that it violates water treaties dating to the British colonial era and poses an existential threat.

But Ethiopia insists that the towering dam will not only benefit its more than 100 million people, but also its neighbours, and sees it as an opportunity to become Africa's leading electricity exporter.

Ethiopian Water Minister Habtamu Itefa said, "This can be scaled up to Nile Basin countries—to Uganda, to Tanzania, to Rwanda, to DRC, to South Sudan, to Kenya, to Ethiopia, to Egypt as well". *—Agencies*

Pakistan spying on citizens through phone tapping

LAHORE, 9 SEPT

Pakistan's unlawful mass surveillance and censorship expansion is powered by a nexus of companies based in Germany, France, United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, Canada, and the US, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

The investigation exposed how Pakistani authorities have obtained technology from foreign companies, through a covert global supply chain of sophisticated surveillance and censorship tools, particularly the new firewall (the Web Monitoring System) and a Lawful Intercept Management System (LIMS).

Pakistan's spy agencies can monitor at least 4 million mobile phones at a time through the LIMS,

"In Pakistan, your texts, emails, calls and internet access are all under scrutiny," said Agnès Callamard, Secretary General at Amnesty International.

LIMS is mandated by the government to be installed across telecommunications networks, by private companies, allowing the Armed Forces and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to tap into and access people's data. *—Amnesty International*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Rupee falls by 3P, closes at 88.12 against USD

MUMBAI, 9 SEPT

The rupee pared initial gains to settle 3 paise lower at 88.12 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking persistent foreign portfolio outflows and global trade tensions. Forex traders said the rupee remained under pressure on worries over US tariffs on India and global trade uncertainties. Moreover, sustained foreign fund outflows also dented investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 87.98 against the US dollar and touched an intraday low level of 88.19 before ending the session at 88.12 (provisional), down 3 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee touched the lowest-ever intraday level of 88.38 but pared all losses before ending 3 paise higher at Rs 88.09 against the US dollar. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

RBI to auction Rs 28,000 crore govt bonds

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

The Government of India will re-issue two dated securities worth Rs 28,000 crore through auction by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 12 September, 2025. According to an official notice, Rs 15,000 crore will be raised via 6.01per cent Government Security (GS) 2030, maturing on 21 July, 2030, and Rs 13,000 crore through 7.24 per cent GS 2055, due on 18 August, 2055. The government may also retain an additional Rs 2,000 crore for each security. The auction at RBI's Mumbai office will follow the multiple price method. Competitive bids can be submitted between 10.30 to11.30am and non-competitive bids until 11.00am. Results will be declared the same day and payment made on 15 September. All bids must be submitted electronically via the RBI's e-Kuber system. *—ANI*

PHOTO: PTI

Luxe cars to cut prices significantly due to GST reforms

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) on Tuesday said it will cut vehicle prices ranging between Rs 4.5 lakh and Rs 30.4 lakh with immediate effect to pass on the GST rate cut benefit to customers. Customers will see price benefits in the range of Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 30.4 lakhs across the entire portfolio of Range Rover, Defender and Discovery brands, it said in a statement. In a separate statement, Volvo Car India said it will cut vehicle prices by up to Rs 6.9 lakh on its ICE portfolio, effective 22 September. Additionally, Yamaha Motor announced a price cut of up to Rs 17,581 across models to pass on benefits of GST rate reduction. The company will extend the complete benefit of the recent GST revision on two-wheelers to its customers, effective 22 September, 2025. Honda Cars India said it will cut vehicle prices by up to Rs 95,500 to pass on the GST rate cut benefit to customers. In a separate statement, Jeep India said that with the rationalisation of GST slabs, ex-showroom prices across the portfolio will see substantial reductions ranging from Rs 1.26 lakh to nearly Rs 4.8 lakh, depending on the model and variant. *—PTI*

Sebi gives portfolio managers huge relief

It simplifies disclosure document for portfolio managers to facilitate ease of doing business

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

To facilitate ease of doing business, markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday came out with a simplified format for disclosure documents for portfolio managers.

The 'disclosure document' has been divided into two sections -- static and dynamic -- the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its circular.

The dynamic section includes the content that undergoes frequent changes, whereas the static section includes disclosures that do not change frequently.

Under the static section, portfolio managers need to disclose on disclaimer clauses, definitions, description, penalties, pending litigation or proceedings, findings of inspection for which action may have been taken or initiated by any regulatory authority, services offered, risk factors, nature of expenses, taxation, accounting policies, investors services and details of the diversification policy of the portfolio manager.

Sebi has divided the disclosure document into two sections — static and dynamic *PHOTO: PTI*

In the dynamic section, portfolio managers need to disclose client representation, financial performance, their performance, audit observations of the preceding three years and details of investments in the securities of related parties.

The disclosure document is issued by every portfolio manager as a compendium of essential information, which enables investors to take well-informed investment decisions.

While this will not result in any change in the content of the disclosure document, it will provide operational convenience to the portfolio managers, as only the updated section of the disclosure document will need to be circulated to clients.

Portfolio Management Services providers will have to ensure that each parameter of the 'disclosure document' begins on a fresh page. Only the page containing a change in any parameter would need to be certified by an independent Chartered Accountant and Principal Officer of the PMS, Sebi said.

The updated disclosure document pages in which changes are carried out will be simultaneously communicated to the clients, updated on the website of the portfolio manager and filed with Sebi within seven working days from the date of change. *—PTI*

JANE STREET CASE: SAT ASKS SEBI'S RESPONSE ON NON-SHARING OF DOCU

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Tuesday asked Sebi to explain the reasons for not sharing documents with Jane Street in the next three weeks and kept hedge fund's appeal against markets regulator for hearing on 18 November.

At the maiden hearing of the Jane Street appeal, Sebi counsel told the tribunal that the regulator has already given 10 GB of data to the hedge fund, and added that the July order barring the hedge fund is only an interim one, with the final one pending.

The regulator alleged that Jane Street is not sharing the trading strategy adopted by it, but is demanding internal circulars.

On 3 July, Sebi had come out with an order asking Jane Street to pay ill-gotten gains of over Rs 4,800 crore through alleged market manipulation.

In the appeal, it alleges that sufficient information and access to documents imperative for putting up a defence have been denied by Sebi and claims that a recent inspection by a Sebi department had concluded that there was no manipulation.

As per Jane Street lawyer, a total of 61 documents have been sought from Sebi, which was countered by Sebi's large list. *—PTI*

Apple's new iPhone 17 price starts at ₹89,990

WASHINGTON, 9 SEPT

On Tuesday, Apple will unveil its latest iPhone models against the backdrop of a global trade war that may introduce price increases, adding to the usual excitement of the annual product reveal.

According to sources, the iPhone 17 series price in India starts around Rs 89,990. iPhone 17 pro will cost around Rs 1,24,990 while iPhone Pro Max price might be around Rs 1,64,990. This marks the new iPhone series as the most expensive mobile phone in India so far, said sources.

This release marks the first since President Donald Trump returned to the White House and implemented a series of tariffs aimed at encouraging domestic manufacturing, placing Apple CEO Tim Cook under scrutiny.

If Apple adheres to its long-standing naming convention, the upcoming models will be called the iPhone 17. However, the company has recently diverged from tradition, naming its new operating system iOS 26 to align with the upcoming year—an approach reminiscent of automobile marketing.

Despite the scrutiny, the new iPhones are expected to be manufactured in Apple's factories in China and India, eliciting frustration from the Trump administration, with both Trump and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick advocating for production in the US. This, analysts argue, could double or triple the iPhone's current average price of around USD 1,000.

In a bid to appease Trump, Cook previously pledged USD 500 billion in US investment, later adding another USD 100 billion. *—PTI*

If Apple adheres to its long-standing naming convention, the upcoming models will be called the iPhone 17 *PHOTO: APPLE*

GOLD HITS A FRESH PEAK OF RS 1.12 LAKH/10G

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Gold prices skyrocketed by Rs 5,080 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1,12,750 per 10g in the national capital on Tuesday in line with strong global trends.

The precious metal prices have added Rs 33,800 per 10g or nearly 43 per cent in the current calendar year, climbing from Rs 78,950 per 10g on December 31, 2024.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,07,670 per 10g on Monday.

Silver prices also surged by Rs 2,800 to hit a record high of Rs 1,28,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. The precious metal had settled at Rs 1,26,000 per kg in the previous market session.

In global markets, gold reached an all-time high of USD 3,659.27 per ounce on Tuesday. Gold later traded at USD 3,652.72 per ounce, up by USD 16.81, or 0.46 per cent.

Traders said weak labour market data in the US last week has raised the likelihood of monetary policy easing, which pushed investors towards safe-haven assets.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 97.29, lower by 0.17 per cent. *—PTI*

Sensex rises by 314 points, Nifty closes above 24,850

MUMBAI, 9 SEPT

Benchmark Sensex rose by 314 points and Nifty closed above 24,850 on Tuesday following a rebound in IT and FMCG shares and hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve later this month.

Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 314.02 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 81,101.32. During the day, it surged 394.07 points or 0.48 per cent to 81,181.37.

Rising for the fifth consecutive day, the 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 95.45 points or 0.39 per cent to 24,868.60.

Among Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 5.03 per cent after India's second-largest IT services company said its board will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares on 11 September. Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Sun Pharma, HUL, ITC and Bajaj Finserv were also gainers.

However, Trent, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and NTPC were among the laggards.

Oil & Gas, realty, energy, consumer discretionary, auto and power were the laggards *PHOTO: PTI*

The BSE smallcap gauge edged higher by 0.22 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.20 per cent. Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT jumped 2.89 per cent, IT surged 2.76 per cent, while teck (2.18 per cent), healthcare (0.67 per cent) and FMCG (0.54 per cent) also gained.

Oil & Gas, realty, energy, consumer discretionary, auto and power were the laggards.

On Monday, Sensex edged higher by 76.54 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 80,787.30, and Nifty ended marginally higher by 32.15 points or 0.13 per cent at 24,773.15. *—PTI*

Infosys shares jump nearly 5%

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Shares of Infosys surged nearly 5 per cent on Tuesday, reaching Rs 1,500 on the BSE and Rs 1,502.80 on the NSE following the company's announcement that its board will consider a proposal for a buyback of equity shares on 11 September. The regulatory filing stated, "...the Board of Directors of Infosys Limited will consider a proposal for buyback of fully paid-up equity shares of the company at its meeting... in accordance with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Buy-Back of Securities) Regulations, 2018, as amended." *—PTI*

Amanta shares up 7% on debut

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Shares of Amanta Healthcare Ltd debuted on the stock market with a premium exceeding 7 per cent above the issue price of Rs 126. The stock opened at Rs 134 on the BSE, marking a 6.34 per cent increase, and later surged by 11.11 per cent to Rs 140. On the NSE, it listed at Rs 135, reflecting a 7.14 per cent premium. The company's market valuation reached Rs 539.73 crore. The initial public offering (IPO) attracted substantial investor interest, garnering 82.60 times subscription by final bidding day, with total size of Rs 126 crore. *—PTI*

PhysicsWallah reveals safety lapses in IPO filing

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

PhysicsWallah has disclosed several safety-related incidents in its updated draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed ahead of its planned initial public offering (IPO). The edtech unicorn revealed that in 2023, a student allegedly threatened a teacher with a slipper during an online class one of several disruptive episodes it has faced as it expands into offline centres.

The company noted that such incidents highlight the risks to student safety and institutional reputation. In 2023, a video surfaced showing a staff member pushing a student at one of its centres; the employee was later dismissed after an internal probe. In June 2024, an FIR was filed against a company staffer after a ceiling fan fell on a student at a New Delhi centre. The case, involving negligence charges, has since been settled.

PhysicsWallah plans to raise Rs 3,820 crore through the IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 3,100 crore and an offer for sale of Rs 720 crore by its promoters, **Alakh Pandey** and Prateek Boob, who each hold 40.35 per cent stakes. *—PTI*

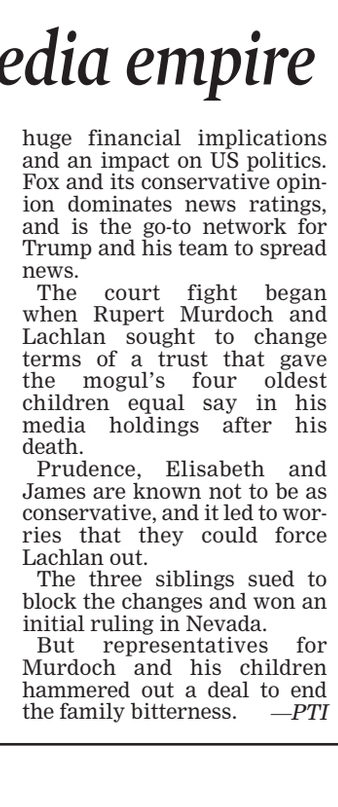
Jio, Germany's Allianz to establish joint venture

- In a joint statement from 18 July, JFSL and Allianz revealed their binding agreement to form a 50:50 domestic reinsurance joint venture.

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) has teamed up with Germany's Allianz to establish a joint venture named Allianz Jio Reinsurance Ltd (AJRL) aimed at addressing India's burgeoning reinsurance market. JFSL announced that AJRL will invest Rs 2.50 lakh towards the initial subscription of 25,000 equity shares, constituting a 50 per cent stake.

The launch follows the receipt of a no-objection certificate from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs confirming the company's incorporation via email on 8 September 2025.



In a joint statement from 18 July, JFSL and Allianz revealed their binding agreement to form a 50:50 domestic reinsurance joint venture. This collaboration is expected to merge JFSL's extensive local knowledge and digital capabilities with Allianz's established underwriting and global reinsurance expertise.

The venture will utilise Allianz's existing Allianz Re and Allianz Commercial portfolios in India, benefiting from its extensive global resources in pricing, risk selection, and portfolio management. *—PTI*

HEIR CHOSEN

Murdoch's family reaches deal on media empire

NEW YORK, 9 SEPT

Rupert Murdoch's family has reached a deal on control of the 94-year-old mogul's media empire after his death, ensuring no change in direction at Fox News, the most popular network for President Donald Trump and conservatives.

The deal creates a trust establishing control of the Fox Corp. for Lachlan Murdoch, Rupert's chosen heir, who has been running Fox, with his younger sisters, Grace and Chloe.

Lachlan Murdoch's three older siblings, Prudence MacLeod, Elisabeth Murdoch and James Murdoch, give up any claims to control of Fox in exchange for stock currently valued at $3.3 billion, according to The New York Times. The new trust will be in place until 2050.

The three siblings sued to block the changes and won an initial ruling in Nevada *PHOTO: WIKI COMMONS*

It ends a drama that has been like a real-life version of HBO's 'Succession', only with huge financial implications and an impact on US politics. Fox and its conservative opinion dominates news ratings, and is the go-to network for Trump and his team to spread news.

The court fight began when Rupert Murdoch and Lachlan sought to change terms of a trust that gave the mogul's four oldest children equal say in his media holdings after his death.

Prudence, Elisabeth and James are known not to be as conservative, and it led to worries that they could force Lachlan out.

The three siblings sued to block the changes and won an initial ruling in Nevada.

But representatives for Murdoch and his children hammered out a deal to end the family bitterness. *—PTI*

Japan's 2nd largest firm plans expansion in India

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

India's increased domestic production and consumption of steel are attracting Japan's steel companies and second largest transport company, Mitsui OSK to expand their businesses in India through more and more joint ventures.

According to sources, Mitsui OSK is planning to build tankers in India by partnering with Indian firms.

Speaking with ANI, on the side lines of ISA Steel conclave in New Delhi, Kazuo Mike Fujisawa, Representative, Japan Iron & Steel Federation told ANI, that many Japanese steel companies are showing interest in India.

"India has high steel production growth and its population is growing so it has high steel consumption per capita," he said.

India and Japan are old trade partners when it comes to the steel industry.

Japan's JFE Steel Corporation (JFE Steel) and JSW Steel Limited (JSW Steel) had established JSW JFE Electrical Steel Private Limited (subject to statutory approvals), a joint venture company for grain-oriented electrical steel in India.

The joint venture was aimed to start full production in fiscal 2027, and to expand production in line with the growing market for grain-oriented electrical steel in India. *—ANI*

YOUNG INDIA EYE ASIA CUP GLORY

Samson is unlikely to make the XI as Gill & Abhishek open

DUBAI, 9 SEPT

As India prepare for their Asia Cup opener against hosts UAE on Wednesday, the team management is still undecided on whether to go with a third spinner or an additional specialist pacer. However, the focus remains firmly on fielding multi-skilled all-rounders to ensure batting depth till at least No. 8 — a strategy head coach Gautam Gambhir has strongly advocated.

This encounter will act as a dress rehearsal for the high-octane clash against Pakistan on 14 September. Facing a top-tier team like India will be a landmark moment for UAE's players, offering them exposure to elite cricket environments.

In terms of team selection, the Sanju Samson vs Jitesh Sharma debate appears settled for now, with the latter's finishing skills giving him the edge. Samson, effective mainly in the top order, is unlikely to make the XI with Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma opening. Tilak Varma, now ranked No.2 in ICC T20I batter rankings, is a lock at No.3, followed by skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

India's middle order boasts versatile options: Hardik Pandya at No.5, Shivam Dube at six, and Jitesh at seven. Axar Patel, combining tight spin with powerful hitting, strengthens the lower order at No.8.

Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh are automatic picks in the pace department. The final spot hinges on pitch conditions, with Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy vying for selection. With Dubai's September pitches offering more bounce and greenery, a pacer-friendly surface is expected. Left-arm spinner Abhishek Sharma also bowled extensively in training, adding to India's spin options.

Watch Ind vs UAE at 8pm

For UAE, coach Lalchand Rajput sees this as a golden opportunity. "We know it's tough, but we're here to compete," said the seasoned coach, promising a spirited fight. —*PTI*

Oman Captain Jatinder Singh, Hong Kong's captain Yasim Murtaza, Pakistan's captain Salman Ali Agha, Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan, India's captain Suryakumar Yadav, Sri Lanka's captain Charith Asalanka, Bangladesh's captain Litton Das and UAE's captain Muhammad Waseem during the unveiling of the Asia Cup 2025 trophy, in Dubai **PHOTO: PTI**

SURYA, SALMAN SAY NO HOLDING BACK IN INDO-PAK GAME

DUBAI, 9 SEPT

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav and his Pakistani counterpart Salman Ali Agha have made it clear — there will be no instructions to tone down aggression in the much-anticipated India-Pakistan Asia Cup clash on 14 September.

"Without aggression, you can't play this sport," said Suryakumar at the captains' press conference. "I'm excited to take the field on the front foot." Salman echoed the sentiment, saying, "If someone wants to be aggressive, they are more than welcome. Especially fast bowlers — they're always fired up."

The remarks come against the backdrop of heightened border tensions between the two countries following a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam earlier this year and subsequent Indian military action under Operation Sindoor. Despite the political climate, media were requested to stick to cricket-related questions, and the captains were even seated apart, with Afghanistan's Rashid Khan between them.

When asked about his team's approach, Suryakumar dismissed the need for change, stating, "Why mend something that isn't broken?" On the Jitesh Sharma vs Sanju Samson debate, he dodged specifics but joked, "I'll message you the whole team," later assuring a well-thought-out decision.

Pakistan, meanwhile, look to prove they've moved beyond the Babar-Rizwan era, with Salman saying, "We've won three of our last four series and are ready for the challenge." —*PTI*

India's captain Suryakumar Yadav addresses the media during the unveiling of the Asia Cup 2025 trophy, in Dubai. Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan, left is also seen **PHOTO: PTI**

'Khadoos' coach who hones underdogs

DUBAI, 9 SEPT

Lalchand Rajput, the man behind UAE's Asia Cup campaign, is no stranger to coaching underdog teams, and thriving while doing so. The seasoned coach, known for his 'Khadoos' Mumbai mindset, brings grit and resilience to every side he mentors, whether it was Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, or now, UAE.

Ahead of UAE's opening clash against heavyweights India, Rajput acknowledged the logistical and competitive challenges but remained unfazed. "Coming from Mumbai, that Khadoos attitude has to be there. You've got to believe you can do it, and fight till the last ball," he told PTI.

Rajput, who managed India's victorious 2007 T20 World Cup campaign, also led Afghanistan to Test status and helped Zimbabwe qualify for the 2022 T20 World Cup. Now, his sights are firmly set on guiding UAE to the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

"See, it's a journey for me because I like challenges. And getting to these smaller teams and making them grow, that makes me very happy," "Afghanistan, nobody knew what team it was. And when I was there, they got the Test status," Rajput said.

Despite UAE's squad comprising largely of Indian and Pakistani expats, Rajput insists team unity is strong. "We feel like one team, not from different countries," he said.

Acknowledging India's all-round strength, Rajput said, "There's no weakness in them. They've ticked all the boxes." Yet, he has urged his players to be fearless against names like Jasprit Bumrah and Suryakumar Yadav. "Planning is there, but execution is key. Be brave, what's the worst that can happen?" he concluded.

Rajput's enduring love for challenges and knack for building belief may just be UAE's biggest weapon. —*PTI*

Rashid Khan slams tight scheduling of Asia Cup

DUBAI, 9 SEPT

Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan has criticised the Asia Cup scheduling, calling it "not ideal" as his team is based in Dubai but will play all matches in Abu Dhabi, requiring a nearly two-hour commute on match days. "To stay in Dubai and play in Abu Dhabi for all three games isn't ideal, but as professionals, we must adapt," said Rashid ahead of Afghanistan's opener against Hong Kong. Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka echoed the frustration, highlighting fatigue after back-to-back games in Zimbabwe on 6–7 September, followed by immediate travel to Dubai. "We need a couple of days off. It's really hot, and fitness is key," he said. Sri Lanka begin their campaign against Bangladesh on 13 September. —*PTI*

Indian F1 racer completes 1st Euro Trophy season

SARNO, 9 SEPT

Indian karting prodigy Atiqa Mir has completed her first full European season, concluding with the final round of the RMC Euro Trophy in Italy. The 10-year-old showed remarkable skill throughout her rookie campaign. A season highlight was her top-nine finish in the Czech Republic, achieved in a male-dominated field of 31 drivers. Atiqa made her European debut in April at Wackerdorf, Germany, in the Minimax category. Despite being among the youngest, she competed in the front third of the grid, often outpacing seasoned players. Her talent has earned her technical and financial backing from the F1 Academy, a first for an Indian driver. "The competition is so close that half a second can cover the entire grid. I will return next year, building on this season's lessons," she said. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Boxer Nikhat Zareen advances to World quarters

LIVERPOOL, 9 SEPT

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen advanced to the quarter-finals of the World Boxing Championships on Tuesday after a hard-fought win over Japan's Yuna Nishinaka in women's 51kg division. Unseeded in the draw, Nikhat earned a unanimous decision despite a scrappy bout marked by constant clinching from her 21-year-old opponent, who was docked two points for excessive holding. Nishinaka edged the first round 3-2, but the 29-year-old Indian adapted in second, landing cleaner punches and sharper counters to take it 4-1. Nikhat maintained her edge in the final round. She faces Turkey's Buse Naz Çakıroğlu, a two-time Olympic silver medallist. — *PTI*

Pak's pacer Shinwari retires from cricket at 31

KARACHI, 9 SEPT

Pakistan left-arm pace bowler Usman Shinwari has announced his retirement from international cricket at just 31 years old, six years after his last appearance for the national team. Shinwari, who played in one Test, 17 ODIs and 16 T20Is between 2013 and 2019, stated his intention to continue playing league cricket to stay connected with the sport. "It has been an honour to represent Pakistan, but now it's time to make way for the next generation," he said on Instagram. Since debuting in a T20I against Sri Lanka in December 2013, Shinwari has accumulated 34 wickets in ODIs and 13 in T20Is, though his tenure was marred by recurrent back injuries. His only Test match was in December 2019 against Sri LankaShinwari struggled in his last outing during Pakistan's National T20 Cup. —*PTI*

Deepika Kumari, Gatha Khadake **PHOTO: ANI**

Indian women may bag bronze in Archery C'ship

GWANGJU, 9 SEPT

India's women's recurve team, Deepika Kumari, Gatha Khadake and Ankita Bhakat, advanced to the bronze medal match at the World Archery Championships, keeping medal hopes alive after a mixed outing for the contingent.

The third-seeded trio defeated Slovenia (5-1) and Turkey (6-2) to reach the semifinals, where they lost 2-6 to Japan. India will now face hosts South Korea for their first women's team medal since 2015.

Deepika, a four-time Olympian, led the charge with a sixth-place individual qualification (677). Gatha (14th, 666) and Ankita (30th, 656) helped India secure third in team qualification.

India's semifinal hopes ended after a poor final set of 51 against Japan's 54, despite two earlier tied sets.

In contrast, the men's recurve team, Neeraj Chauhan, Dhiraj Bommadevara, and Rahul, suffered a shock first-round exit. Seeded ninth, they lost 4-5 in a shoot-off to 24th seeds Denmark after managing just 26 points to Denmark's 28. Attention now turns to the women's recurve bronze playoff and individual events. —*PTI*

Satwik-Chirag, Kiran George advance at Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG, 9 SEPT

Given their recent bronze medal success at the World Championships in Paris, India's leading men's doubles duo, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, commenced their Hong Kong Open Super 500 campaign with a victory on Tuesday.

They triumphed over Taiwan's Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang Chi-Lin with scores of 21-13, 18-21, 21-10 in their opening match. The pair, who previously held the world No.1 ranking, displayed excellent form despite allowing their opponents to force a decider, ultimately regaining control with powerful smashes in the third set.

Sitting as the eighth seeds, they now await the winners between Japan's Kenya Mitsuhashi/Hiroki Okamura and Thailand's Peeratchai Sukphun/Pakkapon Teeraratsakul.

In men's singles action, Kiran George qualified for the main draw with back-to-back wins, first overcoming Malaysia's Cheam June Wei (21-14, 21-13) and then defeating compatriot S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian (21-18, 21-14). Kiran, currently ranked world No. 38, will next face Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh. In a significant upset, Tharun Mannepalli eliminated former world No.1 Kidambi Srikanth in the qualifying round, but could not maintain the momentum, falling to Malaysia's Justin Hoh in his subsequent match. —*PTI*

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, commenced their Hong Kong Open Super 500 campaign with a victory **PHOTO: PTI**

Italy scrambles to avoid missing World Cup

ROME, 9 SEPT

Italy's quest for World Cup qualification remains troubled as they wrestle with defensive lapses and chaotic performances under coach Gennaro Gattuso. The Azzurri secured a dramatic 5-4 victory over Israel in a qualifying match, which Gattuso described as "the craziest game I've been involved with as a coach".

Despite two own goals benefitting Israel, Italy earned crucial points, moving into second place in their qualifying group, trailing Norway. With only four qualifying matches remaining, Italy must secure wins and improve their goal differential to avoid the playoffs — a stage where they faced elimination in the last two World Cups.

Gattuso has been criticised for his tactical choices, especially regarding squad selection. Nonetheless, Italy's attacking players have shown promise. —*PTI*

CHESS GENIUS AT 16

Abhimanyu becomes youngest player to beat World Champ

NEW DELHI, 9 SEPT

Sixteen-year-old Abhimanyu Mishra beat World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju in round five of the 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss, becoming the youngest player ever to defeat a reigning champion in a game of classical chess.

Vaishali Rameshbabu and Kateryna Lagno made a draw on top board in the 2025 FIDE Women's Grand Swiss and were caught on 4/5 by IM Dinara Wagner, who defeated Irina Bulmaga, and Ulviyya Fataliyeva, who overcame former Women's World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk.

The most dramatic day yet saw seven of the top-10 games end decisively, with some huge shocks. One of the draws, between Nodirbek Abdusattorov and 14-year-old Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, also lasted almost 8.5 hours.

As reported by the Indian Express, the intense action between Gukesh and Mishra saw as many as 16 grandmasters take a break and watch the action unfold on this chess board.

"Even though I won, it doesn't feel as pleasing as my previous games in the tournament. It wasn't a very clean game," Mishra was quoted by the report as saying to FIDE after his victory.

"But the tournament is going better than I could have possibly imagined. If I keep up this form I have a very real chance of winning the tournament. Yesterday too, I made some errors against Pragg. But I never felt like I was inferior to these players (Gukesh and Pragg). I think I am at par with them," he added. —*PTI*

Abhimanyu beat reigning World Champion D Gukesh **PHOTO: CHESS24**

Indian shooters falter on ISSF World Cup opening

NINGBO, 9 SEPT

India's campaign at the ISSF World Cup began on a disappointing note as its 10m air pistol and rifle mixed teams failed to reach the finals on Tuesday. In the 10m air pistol mixed event, Surbhi Rao and Amit Sharma finished 11th with a combined score of 594, Surbhi scoring 284 and Sharma 290. Rhythm Sangwan and Nishant Rawat ended 13th with 571, with Rawat struggling in two poor series. China topped the qualification with 585 and went on to defeat the Czech Republic 17-5 in the gold-medal match.

In 10m air rifle, Asian Games bronze medallist Ramita Jindal and Maddineni Umamahesh finished 14th with 628.6, missing the final by eight points. Divyansh Singh Panwar and Meghana Sajjanar were 34th in a 36-team field with 622.1. Chinese shooters Peng Xinlu and double Olympic gold medallist Sheng Lihao set a world record of 636.9 in qualification but lost the gold to Norway 15-9. India's 24-member team will aim to open its medal account on Wednesday in men's 10m air pistol and women's 25m pistol. —*PTI*

India's players celebrate after winning the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 final match between India and Korea, in Rajgir, Bihar **PHOTO: PTI**

India eyes winning run against Korea in Super 4

HANGZHOU, 9 SEPT

The Indian women's hockey team, unbeaten in their Asia Cup campaign thus far, aims to extend their streak when they face South Korea in their Super 4 match on Wednesday. India has made a remarkable start to the tournament, thrashing Thailand 11-0, settling for a 2-2 draw against Korea, and overwhelming Singapore 12-0 to top Pool B. With the title at stake, India seeks to qualify for next year's World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Ranked 10th in the world, India is favoured against the 12th-ranked Koreans. The team, buoyed by forwards Navneet Kaur and Mumtaz Khan, who netted five goals each in the pool stage, hopes to maintain this scoring form. Coach Harendra Singh expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, stating: "The pool stage gave us momentum and tested us against different styles. However, the Super 4 stage presents a new challenge."

With South Korea holding two wins and one loss in the pool, India has a psychological edge, having won three of their last five encounters. Harendra emphasised the need for defensive solidity. "Consistency and composure will be key," he noted, as they prepare for confrontations against title contenders China and Japan. —*PTI*